

Jobless total at its lowest for five years

Prospects for employment 'are best for decade'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's strongly growing economy is creating jobs at a rapid rate and pushing down unemployment sharply, figures published yesterday by the Department of Employment showed.

But there are growing worries in the financial markets that higher interest rates and a downturn in the US could affect the British economy.

The FTSE-100 index fell by 21 points to 2,301.9, making a two-day fall of nearly 30 points.

Interest rates moved higher in the US with the announcement last night by Chemical Bank of an increase in its

prime lending rate from 9.25 to 9.75 per cent.

Prime rates were last raised, from 8.75 to 9.25 per cent, only last week. There is strong pressure on the US Federal Reserve Board to raise its official discount rate.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said prospects for Britain's jobless were better than for more than a decade.

He was speaking after the publication of seasonally adjusted figures showing a drop of 53,800 in adult unemployment last month.

The unemployment total, of 2,775,300, was the lowest since December 1982. It has

recent important job announcements include: Peugeot-Talbot in Coventry, where there will be more than 1,000 new car assembly jobs; and Ford Motor Co, Dundee, where there are 500 new jobs.

Health Care International, Clydebank, near Glasgow, is offering a private hospital development with potential for 4,000 jobs; and the hotel and catering industry is seeking candidates for 40,000 new jobs.

Unemployment has now fallen for 15 months in succession making total drop of 437,200, the largest sustained fall on record.

The unemployment rate, of 10 per cent, was the lowest since July 1982, and Department of Employment officials said the downward trend in unemployment is running at over 40,000 a month.

Separate figures showed that days lost due to strikes in August were 30,000, the lowest for any month since 1948.

Productivity in manufacturing industry in August was 7.2 per cent up on a year earlier, restricting the 12-month increase in unit wage and salary costs to 0.8 per cent.

The unadjusted jobless total rose by 4,393 to 2,870,195, but this was the smallest September rise since 1981, and a much smaller increase than is normal at this time of year.

The strong fall in unemployment in recent months has come about largely as a result of very rapid growth in the economy, the best since 1973. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, expects a 4 per cent growth in the economy this year, slowing to 3 per cent next year.

Even so, he expects unemployment to continue to head downwards, barring a recession for the world economy.

There were 134,000 new jobs created in the second

quarter, new Department of Employment figures showed.

Since March 1983, 1.36 million jobs have been created, 359,000 for men and just over a million for women. Of these new jobs, 778,000 were part-time; less than 16 hours a week.

Manufacturing output is rising by more than 5 per cent a year and Treasury figures, published earlier this week, suggest that unemployment in Britain is now below the European Community average.

Mr Fowler gave particular emphasis to the fall in youth unemployment. "There are fewer unemployed school leavers this September than at any time since 1974", he said.

There were 92,406 unemployed school leavers last month, 48,325 fewer than September last year. However, there has been a big increase in the number of young people on the Youth Training Scheme over the period. At the end of August there were 398,600 YTS trainees, 68,600 more than a year earlier.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's Employment spokesman, said the numbers of school leavers on the unemployment register would double overnight but for government schemes which were not leading to jobs.

But a survey carried out for the Department of Employment and published last week showed that more than 90 per cent of YTS trainees find jobs after completing training.

The nervousness in the financial markets over the past two days has emanated from the United States. On Wednesday, the announcement of a \$15 billion US trade deficit for August sent the Dow Jones Industrial Average crashing by a record 95 points.

There are fears of a sharp upward move in American interest rates, to combat both US inflation and the weakness of the dollar. Money market rates in London rose on Wednesday, with the three-month rate rising to 11.5 per cent.

Herr Karl Otto Poehl, the president of the West German Bundesbank, said that Germany would have no option but to follow worldwide interest rate upwards.

The dollar again fell yesterday, dropping 1.5 pence to DM1.7995, below the key DM1.80 level. The pound rose by a cent to \$1.6640, and the sterling index rose by 0.2 points to 73.5.

On Wall Street, conditions were nervous, after the record 95 point fall in the Dow Jones Industrial Average on Wednesday. In mid-afternoon trading, the index was down by 15.83 points to 2,396.87.

Peugeot to double car output in jobs boost

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Peugeot has confirmed proposals to double car production at its Ryton, Coventry, plant in the next 18 months, creating up to 1,000 jobs.

The extra workers will be needed to build the Peugeot 405 model, which went into production at Ryton yesterday. It will be launched as a rival to the Sierra, Cavalier and Montego fleet cars next January.

Peugeot, which employed 8,000 workers in 1972, has recovered from a low of 1,200 workers in 1983, with 300 staff recruited this year.

Production is expected to rise to more than 80,000 cars next year, compared with 46,500 this year.

Mr Geoffrey Whalen, Peugeot's managing director, said: "For the last 20 years the company has made losses. It made a profit in the first half of 1987 of £5.7 million and I am confident we will be in the black this year."

He said that the company had introduced Japanese-style employment conditions, harmonizing sick and lateness pay and holidays.

The Squibb Institute, part of E R Squibb and Sons, is building a state-of-the-art research centre in Oxford and for seven years is funding research into the chemicals that moderate "messages" sent by the brain through the central nervous system.

Scientists believe that those chemicals could be mimicked by the pharmaceuticals firm in the form of new drugs.

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Mr Kevin Weaver yesterday after being remanded on two murder charges

Hurd moves to impose stiff shotgun penalties

By Sheila Gunn and Peter Evans

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, tabled an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill yesterday to impose stiffer sentences for the possession of a shotgun, without a certificate.

The amendment, which was promised by Mr Hurd in the wake of the Hungerford massacre, means that un-certificate possession can lead to three years' imprisonment and a fine.

At present the offence can

be dealt with only by magistrates and so the maximum penalty is six months in prison and a £2,000 fine. By allowing such cases to be tried at crown court, Mr Hurd has opened the way for the stiffer penalties.

Mr Hurd, earlier addressing a press conference in Bristol, said the amendment was a direct result of the Hungerford massacre, where four people were killed and five injured.

He said he hoped to announce his package before the end of next month. He does not see any reason why there should be a "substantial delay" between that and introducing a Bill.

The Government was thinking in terms of a separate Firearms Bill, rather than an addition to the Criminal Justice Bill.

How quickly it became law would depend on Parliament but he hoped its passage would be fast.

The proposed firearms amnesty must coincide with the new restrictions, he said during a visit to the Bristol police station and local community projects.

Mr Hurd said he had read a statement by Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, and had spoken with him earlier.

Mr Hattersley said it was "an appalling prospect" that under Mr Hurd's timetable it might be 12 months before the new laws were enforced.

But Mr Hurd said: "Given the co-operation of the opposition, which sounds as if it will be forthcoming, I see no reason why legislation should take anything like the time he mentioned."

Wednesday's shooting was a desperate tragedy, Mr Hurd said. He thought it perfectly natural that after tragedies such as Hungerford and Bristol the resolute public concern should be pressure to get on with it. "We are getting on with it."

Mr Ann Taylor, Labour spokeswoman on home affairs, predicted that if "the gun lobby" was allowed to dominate gun control, Britain will soon suffer the American pattern of crime.

Man is accused of 2 Bristol murders

An unemployed man aged 24 appeared in court yesterday charged with two shotgun murders in Bristol, Avon, on Wednesday.

Kevin Weaver, of Roseberry Park, in the suburb of Redfield, Bristol, was charged with murdering Mr David Pursall, aged 29, a computer manager and former policeman, and Mr John Peterson, aged 48, an accountant, who were both killed in the computer room of the Alexandra Wearhouse clothing factory in Patchway, Bristol.

Mr Weaver appeared before a special sitting of North Avon Magistrates in Yat, 12 miles from the city.

He was brought the six miles from Filton police station, where he had been kept overnight, in an unmarked car by three detectives, past a crowd of photographers outside the court.

Dark-haired and wearing a blue pullover and open-necked blue shirt, Mr Weaver spoke briefly four times during the five-minute hearing, replying "Yes" when first his name and then his address were put to him by the clerk of the court, Mr Gordon Harrison.

Mr Harrison said: "You are charged that on the 14th October at Patchway you murdered David James Pursall, contrary to common law, and further charged that on the 14th October at Patchway you murdered John Peterson, contrary to common law."

Mr Stephen Carpenter, for the prosecution, asked for Mr Weaver to be remanded in custody for a week. Mrs Sarah Prosser, chairman of the magistrates, remanded him in custody until October 23.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

After the hearing, Detective Supt Raymond Sarginson said further charges were being considered concerning the deaths of Mr Weaver's mother, Mrs Margaret Weaver, aged 55, and his sister, Linda Weaver, aged 27.

Police in the Irish Republic have launched a nationwide search for four masked gunmen kidnapped the son-in-law of a millionaire doctor and demanded IR£300,000 for his release.

John O'Grady, a dentist and father of three, was abducted at gunpoint from his home on Wednesday morning, but details of the kidnapping were only revealed late yesterday after Irish police lifted a news blackout.

Mr O'Grady, aged 37, was driven away in the family car, which was later found in the grounds of a hotel in the border town of Dundalk.

Supt Bill Herlihy, the officer leading the investigation, last night advised the O'Grady family not to pay the ransom. The policy of the Irish government is that ransom demands should not be met.

Last night, police were guarding Mr O'Grady's wife, Maureen, and their children Darragh, aged 13, Anthony, aged 12, and Louise, aged six. Mrs O'Grady was joined by her father and by her brother, the international showjumper Paul Darragh, and her sister

Adrienne, a Dublin rock singer.

The family refused to make any comment on the kidnapping.

Security forces believe that the gang was led by Dessie O'Hare, who is regarded as one of the most dangerous terrorists and is wanted by both the Garda and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), but they have yet to rule out the involvement of a Dublin criminal gang.

The kidnapping began at

Continued on page 20, col 3

Queen steps down as Fiji head of state

From Andrew McEwen, Vancouver

The Queen yesterday stepped down as monarch of Fiji after accepting the resignation of her Governor-General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau.

Her decision ended Fiji's 113-year link with the Crown, and cleared the way for the republic proclaimed by coup leader Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka to be internationally recognized.

A statement issued by Palace staff in Vancouver said: "Her Majesty is said to think that the ending of Fiji's allegiance to the Crown should have been brought about without the people of Fiji being given an opportunity to express their opinion on the proposal."

The statement did not say that she was exercising her power to withdraw from being Queen of Fiji, but a Palace spokesman confirmed: "Acceptance of the Governor-General's resignation is an acknowledgement that she is no longer head of state in Fiji."

The circumstances were thought by Palace observers to be unprecedented. The possibility that the Queen might exercise this option was first suggested by *The Times* the day after Colonel Rabuka's second coup on September 25.

Fiji's membership of the Commonwealth is expected to lapse automatically. The Commonwealth secretary has argued until now that Fiji remained a member so long as Ratu Ganilau was recognised as the legal authority.

By accepting his resignation, the Queen effectively cleared the way for the Commonwealth to accept the proclamation of a republic. Under Commonwealth rules, a country changing its status from a monarchy to a republic ceases automatically to be a member. It can resume membership only if it re-applies and is unanimously accepted, but no nation has

been refused permission to re-join after such a change of status.

The sole partial exception was South Africa which, in 1961, did not re-apply for membership after becoming a republic, because the Commonwealth had indicated that it would not be accepted.

The Queen's announcement came after she had consulted almost all the leaders attending the Commonwealth conference in Vancouver.

Her final meeting with the last of the 45 leaders was held

two hours after the announcement was made.

The leaders then left Vancouver for a 24-hour retreat at Lake Okechogan, a resort in British Columbia.

As reported in *The Times* yesterday, the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Bob Hawke, hopes that they will adopt a five-point statement in their final communiqué. This would leave the way open for Fiji to be re-accepted in the future.

The Palace spokesman said that a message was received from Ratu Ganilau on Wednesday. It said: "Your Majesty, with humble duty, I wish to submit to you the following advice, acting in my capacity as your representative of Fiji."

"Owing to the uncertainty of the political and constitutional situation in Fiji, I have now made up my mind to request Your Majesty to relieve me of my appointment as Governor-General with immediate effect. I do this with the utmost regret, but my endeavours to preserve constitutional government in Fiji have proved in vain, and I can see no alternative way forward. With deepest respects, Penaia Ganilau."

BP share issue likely to be over-subscribed

The Government's £7.24 billion issue of BP shares is expected to be over-subscribed, despite a sharp fall in stock market prices yesterday.

The BP issue is priced at 330p, still well below last night's close of 349p. BP dropped only 1p on the day while the FT-SE 100 index fell 21 points to 2,301.9 after breaching the 2,300 level earlier in the afternoon.

An immediate premium of 30-35 per cent is being predicted for the BP partly-paid shares when trading starts on

October 30. The first instalment is 120p.

Calculations issued yesterday by NM Rothschild and Sons, adviser to the Government, valued the partly-paid shares at 158.5p if BP fully paid shares stood at 347p.

More than half the shares are expected to go to the British public. The rest are being sold internationally, under a bidding scheme to be priced on October 30.

30% premium, page 23

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IN PART 2

Brewers' fall

Boddingtons, the Manchester brewers, beat off a £226 million takeover bid by Midsummer, the leisure group, then saw its shares slump

Page 21

League help

The Football League have agreed to postpone games on November 7, involving players wanted by England for the European Championship tie in Yugoslavia on November 11

Page 40

TIMES FOCUS

Business travel in Britain is booming, thanks to a boost in the last year, particularly from overseas business executives coming to this country

Special Report, pages 27-32

Portfolio

● The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was shared by two readers yesterday. Details, page 3.

● Portfolio list, page 25

INDEX

Home News	2-5
Overseas	6-9
Business	21-26
Sport	36-40
Arts	16
Births, deaths, marriages	16
Bridge	14
Chess	2
City Diary	23
Court	23
Crosswords	10, 20
Diary	12
Entertainments	18
Features	10, 12, 17
Information	18
Law Report	36
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Motoring	34, 36
Obituary	14
Sale room	13
Science	14
TV & Radio	19
Weather	20

NEWS SUMMARY

Council disowns boycott school

Parents in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, who are continuing to refuse to send their children to a predominantly Asian school were last night at the centre of a new legal dispute.

For the past month, the 24 children involved have been attending a makeshift school in a room above a public house owned by Mr Eric Haley, one of the parents, but they are technically in breach of the Education Act, 1980.

Yesterday, the Department of Education and Science insisted that it was not its business and that Kirkless Council was still responsible for the children's education. But Mr Ian McMillan, principal education officer at Kirkless, said: "We are not responsible for the children any more. Their parents have, in effect, formed an independent school and we have no rights of entry".

Colliery to close

British Coal has confirmed that Snowdown colliery in Kent is to close as soon as possible. The confirmation comes after rejection of an appeal by the pit deputies' union, Nacops, against the closure, announced on June 12. The 190 miners will be offered transfer to Betterhanger, Kent's one remaining colliery, or redundancy.

British Coal says that since 1983/84 the total expenditure incurred at Snowdown has been more than £23 million.

Rail turntable fight

A railway turntable in the Pennines may be the first to be designated as a listed building.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park committee decided yesterday to seek a building preservation order for the derelict turntable at Garsdale station on the Settle-Carlisle line, which is under threat of closure by British Rail.

The turntable was sold for £200 recently to the private Keighley and Worth Valley Railway Society.

Rapist hunted

Police in Greater Manchester have set up a special squad, codenamed Operation Osprey, in an attempt to solve a series of rapes and indecent assaults.

They believe that one man could be responsible for a recent spate of attacks and for a string of attacks in the North-west during the last six years.

Detectives from the force's serious crime squad have set up an incident room at Leigh and are appealing to any women who have been attacked to come forward.

Baby girl 'stable'

Britain's youngest heart transplant patient, aged five months, was said to be in a stable condition yesterday.

The baby girl, named by a newspaper as Kaylee Davison, daughter of a couple from Washington, Tyne and Wear, had her operation on Wednesday.

Sarah Phelps, aged three months, who was born a few hours before her mother died of cancer, left hospital in Taunton, Somerset, yesterday to go home to her father.

Papers appeal

Three Yorkshire newspapers failed yesterday to lift a High Court order preventing them publishing details of an independent report into the building of the Harrogate Conference Centre.

Mr Justice Webster, in a private hearing, rejected appeals by the Harrogate Advertiser, The Yorkshire Post and The Yorkshire Evening Post against injunctions.

The Conservative-controlled council sought the ban after details of the interim report were leaked.

Free Euro condoms

Officials of the European Parliament have upset MPs by planning to install condom machines to dispense contraceptives free in Brussels and Luxembourg in response to concerns over the spread of Aids. Mr Barry Seal, Labour Euro-MP for Yorkshire West, said in Strasbourg: "People will get the impression that we are sex mad instead of knuckling down to our work."

Former space chief outlines European strategy

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A new strategy to resolve the conflict over the European space programme has been outlined by Mr Roy Gibson, the former director-general of the British National Space Centre.

His recommendations, which would streamline the European Space Agency (ESA), offer the sort of alternative the British Government will be seeking next month at the Hague in negotiations between the 13 member countries of the space agency.

Mr Gibson's intervention came as a surprise. His strategy will be seen as closely in tune with the government view voiced this week by Mr John Butcher, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Mr Butcher called for "a reappraisal of ESA's strategy" before any more money was spent.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Gibson said: "The total European programme recommended by the European Space Agency was too ambitious and too costly". He said if the Government

refused any increase in spending, Britain would be unable to join any of the new European programmes and would have no influence on their direction. "Some modest increase by government and industry would give Britain an influence out of proportion to additional spending."

The ESA plan proposes development of the next version of the Ariane launch vehicle, a manned spacecraft called Hermes, and a European contribution to the United States space station under a project code-named Columbus.

That package would raise spending from £900 million to £1600 million a year over the next four to five years.

"We cannot afford to do all these programmes simultaneously. It will lead to financial indigestion. If one of the projects had to stop, it would be the worst possible situation. It would be much better, and more realistic, to take more time and to have more co-operation with the United States and Japan."

Mr Gibson said the case for Ariane 5, the proposed new launch vehicle, was very

strong and it should go ahead immediately.

He doubted the need to pay now the extra money for Ariane to be rated as capable of carrying manned spacecraft.

The space agency has proposed that Ariane 5 could launch the French-designed Hermes manned shuttle into orbit. Mr Gibson said: "I don't think we can afford Hermes".

The programme should also be spread over a longer period by separating Columbus into its three elements. Two would be deferred.

His strategy would cut an increase in British spending on space research and technology from £200 million to £100 million.

Mr Gibson said: "I would like the private sector to hear from government that there is some new money, regardless of how much it is. Without money from government nothing will happen."

He believes other member countries would like the UK to play a bigger part, particularly to dilute the dominant influence of the French over the agency's programme.

Prison staff's right to go on strike is in jeopardy

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Senior ministers are warning prison officers that their right to strike could be placed under threat as a result of the dangers posed by the latest dispute in Britain's jails.

Ministers believe that the highly critical situation provoked by the industrial action has raised the question of whether prison officers, like the police, should lose the right to strike.

Although the issue has not been discussed collectively by ministers, members of the Cabinet are saying that it is one that the Government will eventually have to face, even when the present dispute is over.

They say that there is considerable similarity between the positions of police and prison staff.

Their jobs involve giving protection to the public, and that protection should not be weakened or interrupted by the vagaries of industrial action.

The raising of such a possibility by senior ministers underlines the frustration and anger they feel over the current dispute. Officers in six prisons have been refusing to accept new inmates and claim that the Home Office has gone back on pledges on manpower given when the "Fresh Start" pay and conditions package was introduced.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said that the Government would introduce tough counter measures if the industrial action was not called off. Although he has refused to specify their nature

it is widely assumed that it includes the possible housing of inmates in army camps.

The Prison Officers' Association meets today to consider its response to the Government's plea to end the dispute.

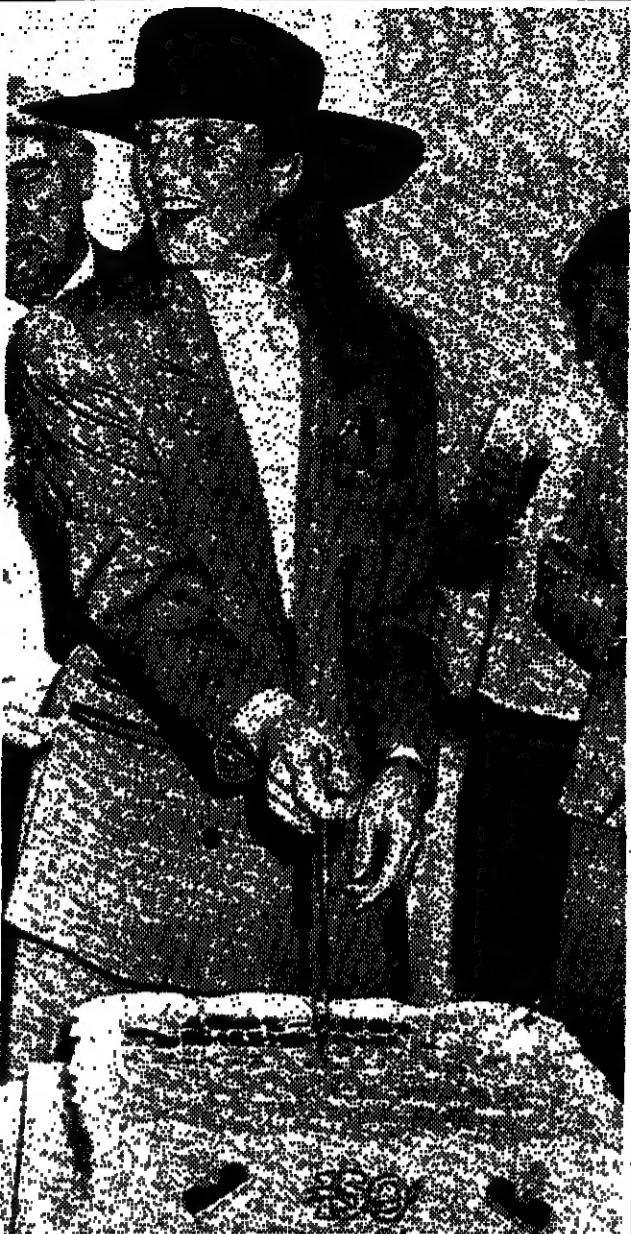
The Home Office has said that the situation is critical and unacceptable. More than 1,000 police officers have been taken from normal duties to supervise remand prisoners in cramped cells.

The size of the prison population is seen by Home Office ministers as the most crucial issue facing them during the next few years.

A series of policy initiatives are expected in the campaign to bring prison numbers down. One, disclosed in *The Times* on Tuesday, is to toughen community service orders, making them a more viable alternative to prison. An attempt to speed up court procedures is expected in an effort to reduce the remand population.

Leaders of ethnic minorities should persuade their "best people" to join the police, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, said yesterday.

He told a race relations conference in Bradford, organised by West Yorkshire police: "The number of ethnic minority police officers needs to increase, and needs to increase substantially". With just over 1,000 policemen from such groups in England and Wales, they were severely under-represented.



The Duchess of York celebrating yesterday as she cuts a cake to mark her twenty-eighth birthday. The Duchess was visiting an office equipment and furniture factory at Warley, West Midlands.

Earlier, there was an embarrassing moment at a careers exhibition at the Birmingham Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, when an abbreviation of the Duchess's maiden name was misspelt on a birthday cake (right) baked by a YTS trainee. Gillian Mason, aged 17, said: "The Duchess was very good about it and appeared not to notice".

Pay-TV sights set on the professions

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The "pay-as-you-view" BBC television package planned for the medical profession could be the first of several subscription programmes aimed at the professions, it emerged last night.

British Direct Television Ltd, the Woking-based firm which has jointly developed with the BBC the first subscription television plan, is understood to want to develop other news and feature services which could be broadcast exclusively to specialist audiences paying for programmes.

The programme for doctors, which would be transmitted on BBC 2 after close-down hours to specially adapted video recorders, may be followed by similar programmes for architects, lawyers, accountants and farmers.

Mr Laurence Greetham, chairman of British Direct Television, said: "We are using our experience in the medical field to demonstrate the capability for direct television in many other spheres. There are many areas where television will provide such a valuable service that people will be prepared to pay for it."

Mr Michael Checkland, BBC director general, said this week that he was keen to develop the commercial potential of BBC frequencies

when they were not in use, but last night the BBC was non-committal about how the proposed subscription service could be expanded.

The Home Office disclosed last night that subscription television could not go ahead without new legislation.

If the BBC proposals are approved by ministers the necessary changes would be incorporated in the Government's proposed Broadcasting Bill - which is unlikely to reach the statute book before 1989.

Although most GPs wishing to take the new specialist programme would have to spend £40 on a decoder to unscramble the broadcasts, they will not have to pay for the programmes.

The costs will be covered by advertising, expected to top £3 million in the first year. Most of the revenue would come from drug companies, but other civil and academic institutions such as the DHSS and royal medical colleges are expected to buy airtime.

British Direct Television has provided video programmes for doctors for the past five years, funded by advertising, but last night Mr Greetham said advertising had "absolutely no influence over editorial".

Marconi win £2bn US defence deal

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The United States navy has awarded an important defence contract to the British company Marconi for communications equipment which will be fitted to every American warship and submarine.

The £275 million contract to develop a communications system which will be impossible to jam will lead to a production deal worth nearly £2 billion over 10 years.

Marconi Communications Systems, in Chelmsford, Essex, which employs about 4,000 people, has teamed up on a 50-50 basis with the American company, Rockwell Collins Defence Communication of Dallas, Texas, to develop the equipment.

Marconi said yesterday: "We regard this as a major breakthrough in the US market. It is also a very good advertisement for us and we are keeping our fingers crossed that it might generate interest among other Nato navies."

The new equipment, called HFAJ, high frequency anti-

jam, will be developed from the integrated communications systems which are fitted to Royal Navy warships. The Navy played a significant part in winning the contract for Marconi by showing the Americans how the equipment worked.

The HFAJ system will be installed on American naval aircraft and shore stations, as well as warships.

Marconi, part of the GEC group, will spend the next 14 months developing the design of the new system. It will become operational in about 1994.

Buyer for VC

An unnamed private buyer is negotiating to purchase the Victoria Cross awarded to Commander John "Tubby" Linton, who sank a German cruiser, a destroyer, a U-boat and 28 transport ships in the Second World War. It was withdrawn from auction last month after reaching £48,000.

Saatchi ends Tory link

Saatchi and Saatchi is parting company with the Conservative Party after nine years as its advertising agency.

A letter from the company to the Prime Minister explains that the decision has been reached because of fears of possible conflicts of interest.

The company is moving into the financial world and satellite broadcasting, both of which are heavily regulated areas, and it believes there

would be considerable scope for embarrassment for both sides if the Government had to rule on sensitive issues.

It became known after the election that the Prime Minister had been unhappy about aspects of its performance during the campaign and it was widely expected that the agency's position would be under threat when Mr Norman Tebbit, the company's strongest defender, stands down as party chairman.

Security 'too tight for bomb'

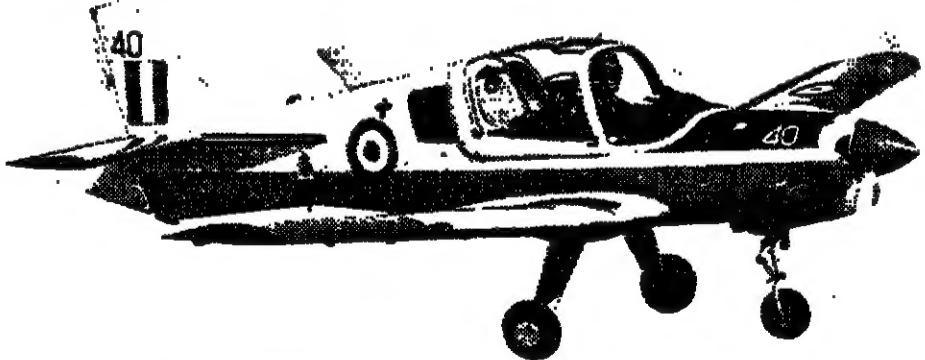
The Irishman accused of making the IRA's Hyde Park bomb lived "under the noses of the security forces" in Crossmaglen and could not have constructed terrorist devices without being found out, it was claimed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, said that Gilbert McNamee, aged 26, an electrician who lived at The Square, Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, could not have built circuits for remote-control bombs, such as the one used to kill four household cavalrymen in Hyde Park in 1982, because of the high level of security.

Lance Corporal Robert Beswick, of the Royal Anglian Regiment, cross-examined by Mr Ferguson, agreed that there was a constantly manned Army post virtually outside McNamee's flat and a helicopter pad and police station nearby.

McNamee denies conspiring between January 1982 and January 1984 to cause explosions in the United Kingdom. The trial continues today.

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Systems Engineering. Such courses (accredited by the Engineering Council) are now available at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham.

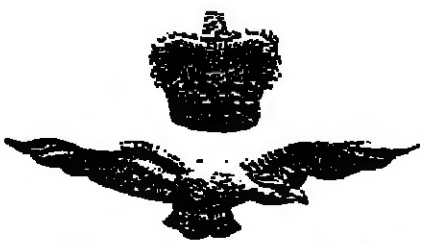
The RAF also offers full Sponsorship of sandwich courses in Air Transport Engineering at the City University, London, and in Electronic and Electrical Engineering at Salford University.

All the RAF asks of you in return for Sponsorship is at least five years' productive service, or six years for Aircrew.

To find out more for the price of a local call, ring 0345 345000 (at any time, seven days a week) where your call will be personally answered. Please quote reference PH/09/12/10. Or call in at any RAF Careers Information Office (in the phone book under Royal Air Force).

*1987/88 pay scales.

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A crushing win for Karpov

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

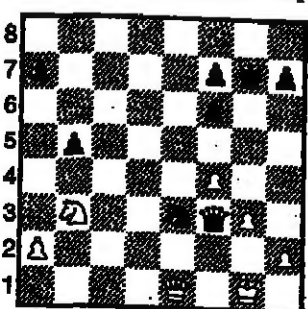
Anatoly Karpov, the challenger, moved into an early lead with a crushing victory in the second game of the World Championship match played in Seville, southern Spain, yesterday.

Karpov's win was all the more valuable as it was scored with the black pieces and in the relatively short space of 32 moves.

It is widely believed by that Karpov may have weakened his concentration on the technical preparation for the championship by dissipating too much energy on writing and promoting his autobiography.

Kasparov's opening, the English, was unusual for him, and it brought him no advantage. Indeed, Karpov's bold ninth move was a surprise for the champion, who pondered his reply for 30 minutes, possibly a record.

By move 17, White was



The board after 32 moves

clearly inferior, with an advanced Black central pawn stuck in the heart of his position. At that point, it was crucial for White to attempt a grim defence.

Instead, Kasparov tried to blast open the position with an aggressive 17th move. He was, however, promptly swept away by Karpov's devastating counter-attack, possibly the most crushing victory Karpov has scored against the champion.

Kasparov appeared nervous throughout the game. As a symptom of that, he mistakenly allowed his time clock to run for a full three minutes after making his 26th move.

By the time he noticed the error, Kasparov had only one minute left to complete up to move 40.

Karpov will have the advantage of White tomorrow. Yesterday's moves:

White	Black	White	Black
1 c4	d5	19 f4	g4
2 Nf3	e5	20 f5	g5
3 Nc3	Nf6	21 f6	Nd4
4 g3	Bc4	22 f7	Qc4
5 Bg2	0-0	23 Kf1	N5
6 Qd3	Nf3	24 Rf3	Bm2
7 Nf5	Re8	25 f8	Rm2
8 h3	Re7	26 f9	Rm2
9 R3	e3	27 Qd5	e5
10 d3	d5	28 Nf2	Q3
11 Qc3	Nf5	29 Nf3	B3
12 Qa3	c5	30 Bf3	Qf3 ch
13 Qd5	c5	31 Kf1	Rf3 ch
14 f4	N5	32 Qm2	N5
15 Rf1	Q7		
16 B2	B4		

White resigns.

Handyman blames brothers for rape and murders

By Michael Horsnell

George Stephenson, a handyman accused of masterminding the Fordingbridge country house massacre, yesterday stepped into the witness box to declare his innocence and blame two co-defendants.

The former painter and decorator, aged 35, said George Daly, his friend, had asked him to drive to Burgate House, the home of the Cleaver family, after the three had spent a day at the seaside. Mr Stephenson agreed, not knowing what was going to happen, and said that Mr Daly had asked him when he and his brother John were doing in the house.

The Dalys, of Deedmore Road, Coventry, and Mr Stephenson, of Elgar Road, Coventry, deny murdering Mr Joseph Cleaver and his wife Hilka, both aged 62, their son, Thomas, his wife, Wendy, and her nurse, Mrs Margaret Murphy, on September 1 last year.

Mr Stephenson and George Daly also deny rape and robbery and Mr Stephenson denies two charges of aiding and abetting the rape. Mr John Daly admits rape and robbery.

Mr Stephenson told Winchester Crown Court: "I never set foot in Burgate House that night. I had nothing to do with the atrocities.

"Mr and Mrs Cleaver were fantastic. They treated me and my wife like a son and daughter. I felt no ill-will towards them after I left their employment."

Questioned by Mr Brian Escott-Cox, QC, his counsel, Mr Stephenson admitted a "substantial" criminal record including a two-and-a-half year jail term for possessing a Luger pistol and sticks of gelignite and then firing a tear-gas spray gun at police who arrested him in 1980.

Admitting that he had served three jail sentences, Mr Stephenson went on to describe how he joined the Cleaver household with his wife Fiona in July 1986, 10 months after marrying her.

He was forced to leave three weeks later after an argument with his wife. He denied that he was dismissed.

After leaving the Cleavers, he went by bus to Bourne-mouth taking with him 16 bottles of red wine and a television set which belonged to the family.

For nearly three weeks afterwards he lived in Coventry at the home of Mrs Ruth Smith, and George Daly.

He helped Mr Daly with car repairs and in return, Mr Daly promised to pay for the hire of a car to take him back to Bournemouth on September 3

to collect some clothes. Mr Stephenson said that to his surprise, Mr John Daly joined them.

Mr Stephenson told the jury that he knew nothing about pick-axe, handles, masks, string and petrol cans which were allegedly in the boot of the hired Rover car.

After paying social visits, he picked up the Dalys and was heading for Coventry when, Mr Stephenson claimed, Mr George Daly asked him to show him Burgate House.

The two brothers allegedly got out in the driveway of the country house and asked him to open the boot of the car through an internal lever beside the driver's seat.

"I never questioned it. I opened the boot. It was very dark. The next thing I can recall is George Daly standing beside the driver's door.

"He had his combat gear on which I had not seen before. He also had something in his hands, a stick or a pole and balacava on the top of his head. I was astounded."

Mr Stephenson, who denies charges of five murders, rape, and robbery, continues his evidence today. The jury was told that after legal arguments charges of procuring rape against him have been dropped.



A fire brigade who know the ropes

Members of Surrey Fire Brigade's special rescue unit practising at a quarry near Reigate yesterday with equipment based on rock climbing and mountaineering kit.

The service, based at Dorking fire station, specialises in rescues from sewers, collapsed buildings, shafts, or high rise blocks. In yesterday's exercise Leading Fireman

Philip Harman (foreground) and Leading Fireman Philip Hawley brought Sub Officer Danny Carey to safety on a stretcher. (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

Major changes 'would damage mental care'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Health policy analysts have told the Prime Minister's adviser on health, Sir Roy Griffiths, that there is no structural "quick fix" for the problems of community care for the mentally ill, the mentally handicapped and the elderly.

The King's Fund Institute, which began a study into community care shortly after the Government announced its own led by Sir Roy last December, says that the upheaval of large reorganization of health and social services would "amount to a damaging diversion" from more deep-seated problems.

In a report published today, the King's Fund refers to recommendations put forward by the Audit Commission last year when it accused the Government of wasting £6 billion on community care and called for sweeping changes.

The report says it endorses the commission's diagnosis of the problem but does not

support its proposals for structural solutions.

The authors say there is no lack of innovation but it is unevenly spread across the country.

The report calls for a coherent national multi-departmental strategy for community care.

The report cites the clash between the Department of Health and Social Security's emphasis on community-based services and the Department of Environment's rate-capping strategy which penalizes local authorities spending more on trying to expand those services.

The King's Fund also recommends devolving management to allow more flexibility, improving joint planning between local agencies and providing financial incentives to aid progress.

Promoting Innovation in Community Care. (King's Fund Institute, 126 Albert Street, 12a Albert Street, London NW1, £3.30).

Portfolio Gold—Two share a windfall

A transport controller and a management consultant shared yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

The consultant, Mr David Rogers, aged 59, said he would probably spend most of his windfall on improving his home at Ormeau Avenue, Hampton, Middlesex.

He said that he had been successful in a competition before, when he was one of several hundred first prize winners who each got £250.

The framed cheque is hanging on his wall.

Mr Derek Peat, aged 50, of Maple Court, Gamlingay, Sandy, Bedfordshire, said he was sure that his wife and two daughters would know how to spend his winning share.

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Carl Bridgewater murder

Hurd orders new hearing

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The conviction of three men for the murder of a newspaper boy has been referred to the Court of Appeal by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, after an eight-year campaign to free them.

Carl Bridgewater, aged 13, was shot dead when he disturbed a burglary at Yew Tree Farm, Prestwood, Staffordshire, in 1978. The three were convicted of his murder a year later.

Mr Hurd made his decision in the light of a full investigation ordered by the chief superintendent of the Warwickshire police, after petitions on behalf of the three men had been submitted by their solicitors.

One of the issues considered was the retraction of evidence given at the trial by a witness who claimed he had heard one of the three men admit to the murder of the boy.

The investigation came

after inquiries on three separate occasions by the Greater Manchester Police.

Mrs Ann Whelan, the mother of Michael Hickey, one of the three men convicted of murder, said yesterday that she was delighted at the Home Secretary's decision.

Mrs Whelan, who has led the campaign to overturn her son's conviction, said: "It has been a terrible time ever since he was wrongly convicted. But at least now there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel."

She said: "Fighting to prove Michael's innocence has stolen time out of all our lives. It has affected family and friends alike."

Mr James Nicholls, solicitor for Michael Hickey, said that his client, who is being held at the top-security Park Lane prison near Liverpool, was stunned by the decision.

Michael Hickey, Vincent Hickey and James Robinson were convicted at Stafford Crown Court of charges including murder and aggravated burglary.

Hickey and Robinson were jailed for life for murder, with a recommendation that they serve a minimum of 25 years, and concurrent sentences of 10 years each for aggravated burglary.

Michael Hickey was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure for murder and was sentenced to eight years concurrently for aggravated burglary.

An application for leave to appeal against the murder convictions was refused by the Court of Appeal in 1981. A fourth man, Patrick Molloy, who was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 12 years, died in jail in 1981.

Gas case sergeant in plea to recruits

By Craig Seton

An army sergeant yesterday appealed to potential young soldiers not to be put off joining up after a court martial reduced him to the rank of corporal for exposing a recruit to CS gas.

David Miller, aged 33, a general instructor with the Devonshire and Dorset regiment, was sentenced after a three-day court martial at Tern Hill Barracks, near Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Miller, who was based at Whittington Barracks, Litchfield, Staffordshire, was found guilty of lighting CS gas pellets during a mock "barrack room court martial" of Private Simon Freeth, aged 19, who had failed a locker inspection. He was also accused of exposing the young soldier to the fumes.

He was cleared of placing an ammunition sack over Private Freeth's head before forcing him to kneel over the gas pellets.

Miller, a soldier for 16 years and the best recruit of his intake in 1972, later issued a statement through his solicitor which said: "Any potential recruit reading about this trial

must not be put off the army. Sergeant Miller considers it a good life and wishes to apologize to the Prince of Wales's Division and his own battalion."

Miller's court martial came after the army's Special Investigation Branch inquired into allegations that NCOs of regiments based at the Prince of Wales's Division depot at Litchfield had bullied recruits.

A corporal is due to appear before a court martial on 20 charges and a lieutenant has already left the Army after being given a reprimand.

Miller had denied six charges and was cleared of kicking one recruit, hitting another with his pace stick and failing to prevent a corporal allegedly striking recruits with a baseball bat.

The court martial was told that Miller's company commander still believed that he should serve with his regiment and on his return "will be a strong candidate for promotion."

The finding and sentence are subject to confirmation.

Calling time at Oxford

By John Clare

Education Correspondent

Oxford Union debates may reverberate around the world but yesterday they cut no ice with the city's magistrates who ruled, for only the second time in the union's 160-year history, that they do not rate as special occasions.

The significance of the decision is that the union bar has, therefore, been refused its traditional 12.30 am licensing extension on debating nights.

Yesterday the magistrates were given a list of the sort of people whose presence tends to lift union debates out of the ordinary, beginning with the Queen and ending with a whole Cabinet-full of British Prime Ministers.

Mr Anthony Frieze, president of the union, said: "It's an astonishing verdict. The union applies for licence extensions at the beginning of every term. It's routine. We've never been refused before."

The union says it will apply to the High Court for a judicial review on the ground that the magistrates exercised their discretion improperly.

Guess who's showing the world a thing or two about shearing?

Yes, it's the British, thanks to a small Gloucestershire firm. Their ingenious cutting blades are designed to raise farming efficiency. And when it comes to markets abroad, the company are far from sheepish. Business is booming, and they are now regularly exporting to more than 40 countries - in Europe, North and South America, and even Australasia.

In fact, British goods are more competitive abroad now than for many years.

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get more information. Ask for your pack now, because there's rarely been a better time to export.

Now's the time to EXPORT

Housing boom at Sotheby's

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

This has been an impressive week for prices in the auction houses, particularly in the house sales run by Sotheby's.

That auction house doubled its estimates at Tuesday's and Wednesday's sales at the ancient Chateau Clecyd in Belgium, by achieving £860,000, and at the two-day sale of Wilford Manor in Wiltshire, which ended last night with a grand total of £1.6 million.

The Chateau Clecyd is a dramatic, turreted pile set within a huge moat-come-lake. Its history momentarily overlapped that of Britain, when Oliver Cromwell married Anna d'Hooftman, the daughter of the house.

Its future will be as a hotel within a golf course.

Religious items, sold well. They included a sixteenth century Dutch oak carving of the Virgin and Child, which fetched £32,579, and a tri-

tych of the same subject from the same period, which made £30,920.

Top prices were paid for a landscape in the Impressionist style by Emile Claus (£72,579 including buyer's premium), and a jolly genre scene by Isaac van Ostade (£34,384).

Two drawings by Prince Albert of Wales, sketched quickly by him for an ancestor of the vendor, Mr Jean Francois Leimer, were disappointments, selling at £154.

There was better cheer for Britain's heritage at Phillips's antique arms and armour sale yesterday when the descendant of the English Civil war hero, Lord Astley, succeeded in buying back the gambler's his ancestor lost when fighting

for Charles I at Stow-on-the-Wold.

Mr David Gaisner, a resident of the area, bought them for £3,520 (estimate £2,000 to £2,500).

Meanwhile prices for the remaining possessions of Stephen Tennant continued to astonish at Wilford Manor, Wiltshire. Two eighteenth century views of Rome fetched £220,000 (estimate £25,000 to £35,000) from Chancer Fine Art from London, while the Fine Art Society spent £24,200 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000) on Jacob Epstein's bust of Stephen Tennant.

Photographs, many by Cecil Beaton, of Tennant and his friends were much in demand. The one featured on the catalogue cover, of Tennant in his prime, went for £3,740.

Another, of him desporting with his friends as shepherds and shepherdesses, sold for £660.

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Airline pilots join controllers in call over traffic crisis

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Airline pilots yesterday put their weight behind Britain's air traffic controllers in demanding urgent action to tackle the growing crisis in the air.

Captain Mike Clarke, the chairman of the British Airline Pilots' Association, yesterday met senior air traffic control officials at a conference organized by the Guild of Air Traffic Controllers.

Both organizations agreed that no one really knew the full extent of the problems on the ground and in the air because of a lack of reliable statistical information from the Civil Aviation Authority.

The two groups agreed to launch an urgent investigation into the number of potentially dangerous incidents; to press for more air space, now taken over by military operations, for civilian use; and to lobby for an increase in the number of jet movements allowed at night.

The first priority will be to press both pilots and controllers to report incidents to their respective organizations.

The reports should be confidential but it is hoped they will be more comprehensive than the formal reports now put in to the CAA.

Captain Clarke said: "We do not want to put any blame on the controllers if separation standards are occasionally infringed. But we do want to know how often it is really happening."

At the moment all pilots and controllers who are involved in a potentially dangerous incident are supposed to report it formally under a system known as a Mandatory Occurrence Report.

They claim that many incidents are not being reported because of fears that disciplinary action would be taken against anyone who may be partially to blame.

At the same time Balpa believes that more pilots are suffering from fatigue caused largely because of cumulative delays caused by having to wait in a holding pattern for a landing slot at an airport.

Now Balpa is to ask all its members to give them details of instances when they are over-tired or under increased pressure.

Those will then be fed into reports from the controllers, in the hope that action can be taken to change airline schedules or to force the CAA to spend more money on new equipment and to recruit more controllers.

The controllers are asking their members to be far more honest in reporting incidents and to set a standard for reporting occurrences throughout the country.

The three-day conference, which ends today, has concentrated on the problems faced by controllers in meeting the ever-increasing demand for flights into and out of Britain.

Captain Clarke said: "So many things are now inter-related that it is time the industry came together to tackle them and we believe that this new initiative that we have taken with the guild should help."

Airline chiefs have also joined in the growing chorus of criticism of the failure to provide an efficient service.

Mr Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland Airways, said that the standard of service his airline had received from air traffic control had diminished greatly in the past year and that far more resources needed to be made available.

Highly radioactive waste from the Bradwell power station in Essex began a weekly 300-mile journey by road and rail to the Sellafield reprocessing plant in Cumbria yesterday (Our Technology Correspondent writes).

minister, near Malden, the sight of the lorry led by a van passing down the main street has become familiar enough to engender indifference, despite its potentially hazardous cargo of irradiated uranium fuel rods.

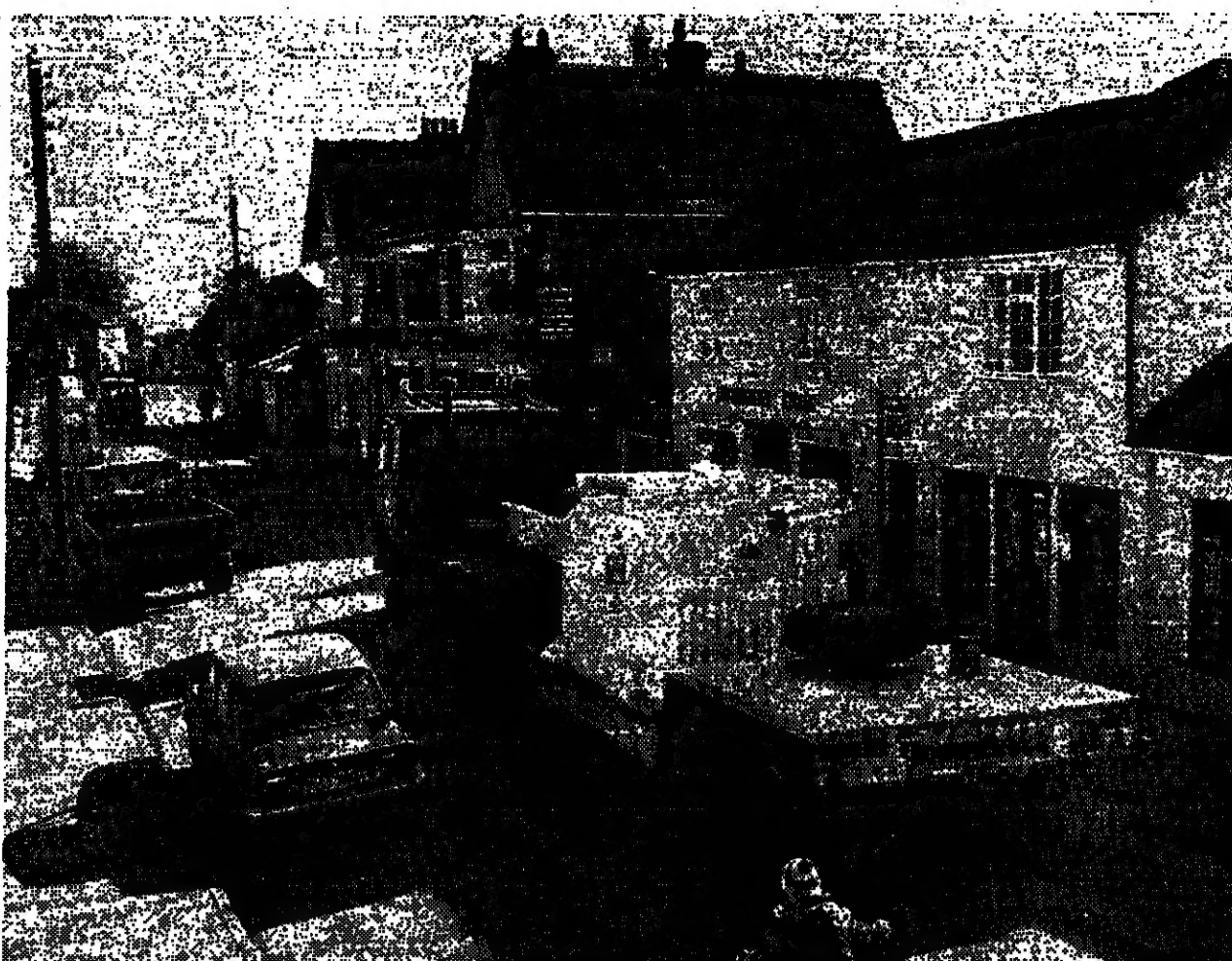
They, pressure groups such as Alert Against Radioactive Materials (Alarm) complain about the danger of transporting the waste through a densely populated area. Alarm claims that the only reason for the journey so far from the reactor is to shift weapons-grade plutonium from the waste.

There have been five cases of wheel or halfshaft failure in Devon since June and the crews have refused to drive the ambulances.

A Review of Safety and Durability of Ambulances in the Devon Ambulance Fleet by Richard Booth (Nurse, Civic House, 20 Grand Depot Road, London SE18 6SF; free).

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A flask of radioactive waste passing through Southminster on its way to Sellafield (Photograph: Bill Orchard).

Village start for atomic waste on 300-mile trip

Highly radioactive waste from the Bradwell power station in Essex began a weekly 300-mile journey by road and rail to the Sellafield reprocessing plant in Cumbria yesterday (Our Technology Correspondent writes).

To the villagers of South-

minister, near Malden, the sight of the lorry led by a van passing down the main street has become familiar enough to engender indifference, despite its potentially hazardous cargo of irradiated uranium fuel rods.

Few witness the small con-

vey pass to the station for a special northbound train. Its passage coincides with the departure of a free bus service to a supermarket. The opposition only reveals itself in any force once the ribbed flask containing the rods passes by train through north London.

There, pressure groups such

as Alert Against Radioactive Materials (Alarm) complain about the danger of transporting the waste through a densely populated area. Alarm claims that the only reason for the journey so far from the reactor is to shift weapons-grade plutonium from the waste.

'Lives at risk' from emergency vehicles

By John Spicer

The stress and strains of answering emergency calls in ambulances which were not designed for the purpose are putting lives at risk, according to a university professor.

After looking into incidents in Devon in which wheels have come off and drive shafts have broken, Professor Richard Booth says that 54 Bedford ambulances belonging to the health authority should be scrapped.

Leaders of Devon's ambulance crews will be meeting authority officials today to make the same demand.

Bedford Trucks division of General Motors said last night that several thousand CF280 ambulances had been used by at least 10 ambulance authorities over the years with very few problems.

"Whenever a fault was discovered and our subsequent advice on ways to cure it were followed, then we found that generally ended the problem."

There have been five cases of wheel or halfshaft failure in Devon since June and the crews have refused to drive the ambulances.

A Review of Safety and Durability of Ambulances in the Devon Ambulance Fleet by Richard Booth (Nurse, Civic House, 20 Grand Depot Road, London SE18 6SF; free).

Weekend food prices

Choice in chicken and lean joints

Until four years ago there was little choice when buying chicken other than whole or portioned, fresh or frozen birds. Now more than 25 per cent of chicken purchased is either spiced, baked, exotically flavoured, stuffed or coated.

Hardly a week goes by without another new recipe appearing in the shops. Mr Paul Grimms, chairman of British Chicken Information Service, agrees that travel abroad and an increase in ethnic restaurants has made people more adventurous in their eating habits.

"As an industry we have also played an important part in providing exciting and imaginative alternatives to the more traditional roast or casserole bird."

Fresh chicken prices this month are whole birds 72p to £1.08 a lb, boneless breast £2.52 to £3.09 a lb; corn-fed birds 99p a lb and poussins £1.18 to £1.19 a lb.

Good supplies of beef ensure stable prices in the shops across a wide range of joints. Most shops and supermarkets have lean cuts and one chain butcher has extra lean meat on promotion. The average price of roast topside is £2.20 a lb and boneless sirloin is £2.88 a lb. Steaming steak costs between £1.28 and £1.65 a lb and shin of beef about £1.29 a lb.

Lamb prices, apart from leg, are unchanged since last week. Whole leg costs £1.40 to £1.89 a lb, up a penny a lb. Whole shoulder costs between 78p and £1.18 a lb and loin chops between £1.65 and £2.35 a lb.

Supplies of quality fish are good despite the weather. Inshore fish are particularly plentiful but prices have increased slightly. Plaice filets are about £2.20 a lb, lemon sole £2.60 a lb. There is plenty of mackerel from Scotland and the West Country at around 60p a lb.

Billingsgate eagerly awaits a consignment of swordfish today which will retail at about £4 a lb. Shellfish are plentiful with native oysters 90p each, Pacific oysters 45p each, hen and cock crabs £1.40 and £1.60 respectively.

Conference pears are a star buy and cheap from 22p a lb. Poached lightly in a sugar syrup they will keep in the freezer for up to a year.

Kiwi fruit 12p to 20p each, Thompson seedless grapes 60p to 80p a lb, Italia grapes 50p to 80p, pomegranates 20p to 30p each are all plentiful. Newcomers to shops this week are English Cornish pears at 50p to 70p a lb and Spania satsumas 45p to 55p a lb.

A good selection of root vegetables includes swedes 16p to 18p, carrots 24p and parsnips 15p to 35p a lb. Cauliflowers at 50p to 60p each are plentiful, as are courgettes at 65p to 85p a lb, sweetcorn 12p to 25p a cob, leeks 35p to 55p a lb and mushrooms 35p to 60p a half pound.

English celery 20p to 45p a head, tomatoes 40p to 80p a lb, Iceberg lettuce 65p to 85p, round lettuce 18p to 28p a head, and Chinese leaves 40p to 70p each are the best salad buys.

Currie demands butter

Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health, whose outspoken criticism of unhealthy eating is well known, unashamedly demanded butter instead of low-fat spreads when she sampled crumpets at a new factory yesterday.

She emphasized that butter should only be eaten in moderation, after opening the £1 million factory built by the Master Baker Hot Plate Company in Nelson, Lancashire.

Crumpets were low-fat, she added, and probably had less fat than ordinary bread.

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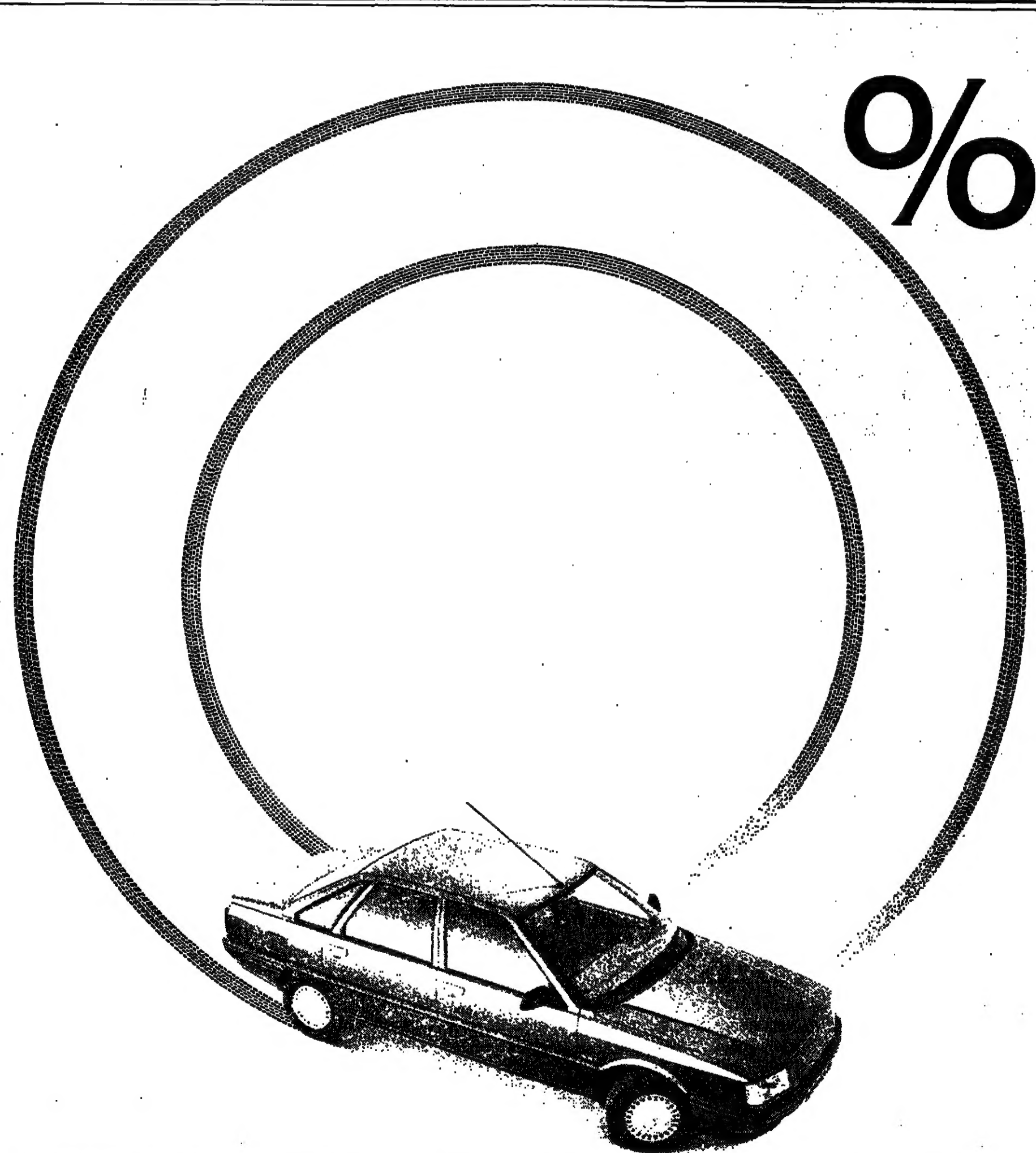
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⁽¹⁾ Weekly Equivalent	£478.1	£525.6

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Law Society chief gives backing to 'one stop shopping'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Public backing for solicitors to provide "one stop shopping" in mixed practices with other professions came for the first time from the president of the Law Society yesterday.

Mr Derek Bradbeer told nearly 1,000 solicitors at their annual conference in Vienna that solicitors have to relax their rules to survive.

He said that if solicitors "remain locked into a rigid strait-jacket of solicitor-only private practice partnerships for ever", they would miss opportunities "for commercial exploitation and development".

They would also "be unable to respond to public needs for legal services both in the privately-paid and publically-supported sector".

In a wide-ranging speech Mr Bradbeer also urged closer controls on the 3,000 sole practitioners in England and Wales. New one-man firms should have their accounts called in twice, and should be encouraged into partnerships and other arrangements with other firms.

He issued a strong warning to the profession about the dangers of over-commercialism and over-zealous "price cutting", and criticized the ludicrously "low" level of fees some solicitors charge for conveyancing.

Solicitors had entered an era

of "overt competition", he said. "Sensible price competition is of course healthy and will normally operate for the benefit of the clients."

However, some charges he had heard of recently for conveyancing were "nothing short of ludicrous and most certainly cannot operate in the public interest". The work could not be done properly in the time covered by the charge on any reasonable assumption whatsoever.

In his view there was a link between "dangerous price cutting" and "some recent defaults by solicitors with a consequent increase in the contributions to the compensation fund".

He gave a warning that pursuit of the "idol of commercialism" and leaving "the needy to the mercies of a nationalized legal service" could lead to the day when no one would defend individuals against the state.

A nationalized legal service might no longer be willing or able to do so; and private practice lawyers, having opted for commercialism, would no longer be able to fill the gap.

There would always be solicitors in the commercial area earning far more than the average practitioner. But it would "totally destroy the nature of our profession if we allow the desire to emulate the

earnings of others to become too dominant a factor".

On mixed practices Mr Bradbeer said solicitors had a role to play in these under two conditions: they must be in control within such practices, which should be free to incorporate with or without limited liability.

Second, only members of professional bodies with high ethical standards should be able to join solicitors. They should be active partners, or executive directors or employees if the practice was incorporated.

Urging closer controls on sole practitioners, on which the Law Society has set up a working party, Mr Bradbeer said that a recent sample of complaints to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau showed that 20 per cent related to one-man bands; and of a sample of cases which went to adjudication committee, 34 per cent related to them.

Sole practice was "a stressful form of work where the proprietor does not have the benefit of partners with whom to discuss problems and share the load".

New one-man firms should have their accounts called in twice yearly and all sole practitioners should be encouraged to enter into partnership or share facilities with other firms to ease the pressures on them.

Increased scrutiny opposed

Young solicitors hit back yesterday at proposals by the president of the Law Society that the 3,000 one-man firms in England and Wales should be more closely controlled.

Mr Jeremy Shulman, president of the Young Solicitors Group, told the society's conference: "To wipe 3,000 firms providing a valuable service to the public off the slate would be a totally unacceptable imposition."

"It is true that sole practitioners are statistically a high risk group in matters of professional negligence and non-observance of the rules, but we feel it would be an unwarranted infringement on the right of the individual for sole practitioners per se to be prevented from practising."

Mr Derek Bradbeer had said earlier that one-man firms should be encouraged to merge or at least to share facilities with other solicitors.

Mr Shulman said the answer to Mr Bradbeer's argument that one-man firms attracted a disproportionate number of complaints was to make sole practitioners more aware of their limitations and their vulnerability.

There should be proper enforcement of the professional rule making it improper for any solicitor, sole practitioner or otherwise, to accept instructions on matters outside his or her competence.

More scrutiny and control should also be exercised to prevent solicitors claiming in public documents such as

directories and advertisements that they have expertise in all types of work if they do not, he said.

There was a need, he said, for sole practitioners in specialist areas in the larger centres and in general work in the country. He added that it was the medium sized firms which were in the "greatest state of flux" and they were most under threat.

Those who derived their principle fee income from domestic conveyancing and legal aid must seriously consider whether they could survive in the face of increasing conveyancing competition and harsh government cut-backs. For them, perhaps merger was the answer, Mr Shulman said.

Jobless 'can build own home'

Britain's rundown inner cities could be transformed if the unemployed built their own homes, Dr Rod Hackney, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, said last night.

He told members of the Chartered Institute of Builders in London that community schemes with jobless people learning the skills of architects and builders could revitalize deprived urban areas.

A million homes in Britain were unfit for human habitation, while 10 million needed expenditure of at least £4,000 per home to become habitable.

It was costing £86 billion to re-build the inner cities the traditional way but merely spending large sums of money was not the answer.

New schemes in such areas as Salford and Leicester, where professionals trained people to rebuild their environment, met with enormous success.

Looking to a time when such schemes were more widespread, Dr Hackney said: "We can create that renaissance from the bottom if we, the informed experts, can articulate not for us any more, but for others, the ways round the bureaucratic rules that were meant for another time".

Dr Hackney's self-help community project Inner City Aid, with the Prince of Wales as patron, ran into trouble when it was launched at the same time as another charity, for which the Prince made a cash appeal.

Inner City Aid was said to have been "put on ice" after raising only £33,000 instead of an expected £10 million. But last night Dr Hackney, the charity's chairman, insisted that the project would continue.

'90% backing' for no-smoking zones

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Ninety per cent of the population think that no-smoking zones should be provided in all public places including restaurants, public houses and offices, according to a survey published today.

It coincides with the publication of a leading article in the *British Medical Journal* calling for a much tougher government policy on health promotion to reduce heart disease, lung cancer and alcohol abuse.

The Marplan survey on a representative sample of more than a thousand adults throughout the country, shows that two thirds of the population think that advertising and promotion of tobacco should be banned, 61 per cent think tobacco tax should rise at least in line with the cost of living and 94 per cent want greater emphasis on health education in schools.

More than half also felt that employers should provide exercise facilities for employees and their families, and that food should be labelled to show the fat, salt and sugar content. Of those questioned,

85 per cent said that smoking should be banned in hospitals and other health service premises.

The results of the survey, commissioned by North Western Regional Health Authority and published in the *British Medical Journal*, will put added pressure on the Government before the parliamentary debate on health promotion next Friday.

The leading article calls on the Prime Minister to ask all government departments to identify and review policies that may affect health.

"The Chancellor should consider how fiscal policy can be used to promote health and indefensible policies that bring international disgrace on British public health, such as the voluntary agreement on tobacco advertising and sponsorship, should end."

The authors are Dr Noel Olsen, Hampstead district medical officer, and Miss Nicola Tewson, Riverside assistant director of health education.

Maths gives Bard's unknown poem complete approval

By Robert Matthews

Did the editors of the Oxford complete works of Shakespeare act with injudicious haste in ascribing to the Bard the love-poem unearthed in the Bodleian library two years ago?

The nine-stanza poem, "Shall I die?", was found by one of the editors, Dr Gary Taylor, in a folio volume that had been left in the vaults of the Bodleian library since 1755.

Its discovery triggered a controversy over whether the

style of the rather lacklustre poem was that of Shakespeare or of an unknown contemporary. One professor went as far as to say that if it was the work of Shakespeare, then it must have been written after his stroke.

Now two American researchers have applied higher mathematics to the poem and claim to have found strong support for Dr Taylor's claims for its authenticity.

Publishing their findings in the latest issue of the mathematical journal *Biom-*

etrika, Dr Ronald Thisted of Chicago University and Dr Bradley Efron of Stanford University in California make use of an ingenious statistical theory.

At the heart of their test are the questions: how wide was Shakespeare's vocabulary, and how much of it did he use? In other words, how many new and rarely used words would one expect to emerge in the poem, given the number of such words he used in work already proved to be his work?

By analysing the more than

884,000 words in the existing Shakespeare canon, the researchers calculated that there should be about seven new words in the 429-word poem. In fact, nine new words appear: admirations, besots, exiles, infection, joying, scanty, speck, tormentor and explain.

However, the strongest support for a Shakespearean origin comes from a much more powerful test developed by the mathematicians. That test enabled them to compare Shakespeare's known use of words

with that of the author of "Shall I die?", and with other Elizabethan poets such as Ben Jonson and Christopher Marlowe.

Shakespeare used unusual words with surprising frequency: two-thirds of his 31,500 distinct words in his proven works occur no more than three times.

Using a computer to analyse poems by Jonson and Marlowe, the mathematicians found that Jonson used unusual words less frequently than Shakespeare.

Marlowe's poem, on the other hand, gave evidence of greater creativity than Shakespeare in the use of language.

The author of "Shall I die?" was found to have almost exactly the same word-power as Shakespeare. Using their test on four other Shakespearean poems, the mathematicians found the same degree of consistency.

"The Taylor poem appears consistent with the hypothesis of Shakespearean authorship", conclude the researchers.

Digging down to Domesday farms

By Alan Hamilton

Archaeologists have seized a rare opportunity to investigate the ancient farmsteads that nestle in the medieval landscape of a sequestered Devon valley, before they disappear for ever under the waters of a huge new reservoir.

On the northern edge of Dartmoor the waters of the River Wolf meander by the Domesday manors of Southweek and Bratton Clovelly, past deserted farmsteads that once sang to the splash of mill wheels.

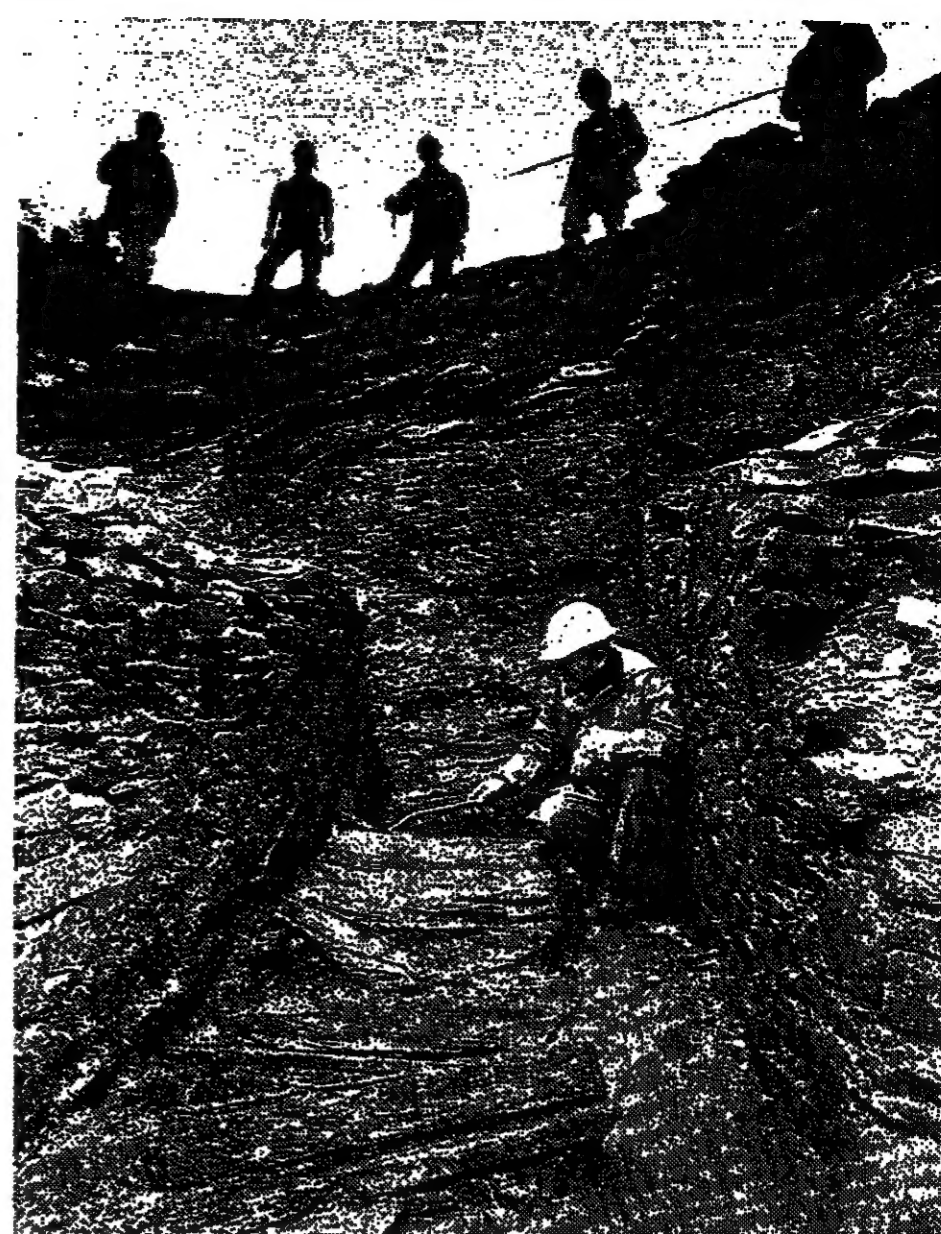
The last farmer moved to higher ground in 1986, driven out by the protracted planning blight of three public inquiries that spanned more than 10 years and eventually moved the West Country's badly needed third big reservoir off the high moorland.

Now work has at last begun on the dam to contain the 8,120 million gallons and 738 acres of the controversial Roadford reservoir, being built to ease a critical shortage in one of the few areas of Britain where demand for water is still rising. In 1990 the trickling Wolf will begin to fill the valley, erasing a landscape that has changed only marginally in the past 500 years.

Neglected farm buildings, some still with their stone cider presses, are falling inside thick cob walls of clay and cow dung. But it is what lies under them that interests the archaeologists, who rarely have the opportunity to knock down a Victorian farmstead in search of the medieval one underneath.

Excavation at the hamlet of Hennard Jefford, which 200 years ago had nine houses but gradually decayed to one, has already revealed the eighteenth century millrace and the shattered remains of its wooden wheel.

Further investigation will, it is hoped, produce evidence of even older activity: digging has already turned up the rubbish of five centuries, from medieval pottery through seventeenth century leather shoes to



The Hennard Jefford water-wheel getting expert care (Photograph: Denzil McNeelance).

a discarded Camp coffee bottle.

"This valley shows a settlement pattern just as described in the Domesday Book, with a Lord of Manor at Southweek and his four vills", Mr Simon Timms, the Devon county archaeologist, said.

"We have a unique opportunity to dig below the level of the eighteenth century farmers and find their antecedents. This sort of pattern is still common in the South-west but it has never been fully studied archaeologically."

The Wolf Valley appears once to have been a prosperous place, with evidence that the

water turned both a grain and a cloth falling mill. Bratton Clovelly, which will remain above the water level, grew rich on the wool trade.

English Heritage, which is helping to fund the valley dig, is also helping to uncover and preserve a remarkable series of seventeenth century wall paintings in its tiny Norman church, which themselves cover a series of medieval frescos.

It is in the valley, however, that attention is being concentrated. The archaeologists hope to discover more of the farmsteads of West Wrotha, now only a derelict seven-

teenth century farmhouse but first documented in 1320. "This is a very rare opportunity; you cannot excavate a farm that is still in use", Mr Chris Henderson, the project director, said.

The experts expect to show that the Wolf Valley, untouched by modern agriculture, is largely unchanged since the Saxons farmed it. It is still a landscape of dry fields, high hedges and meandering lanes that a wet autumn turns to quagmires. Before long the trees and hedges will be grubbed up to help keep Plymouth's new water supply pure.

Civil Servants and politics

Union fears loss of negotiating rights

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Mr John Ellis, leader of Britain's biggest Civil Service union, has written to Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary and head of the Civil Service, demanding to know if he intends to end its negotiating rights in Whitehall.

Mr Ellis and other senior officials of the Civil and Public Services Association, which is now under the control of Militant Tendency supporters, fear that the Government has plans to strip them of power if the union affiliates to the Labour Party, as planned.

There is no law against Civil Service unions linking to a political party but Treasury ministers would regard such affiliation as a serious development, against the tra-

ditional political neutrality of Civil Servants.

Moderates on the CPSA executive, including Mr Ellis, are getting signals that the Government "will take steps" to ensure that no such move is made.

The union's Militant leadership intends to go ahead with a ballot of its 143,000 members next spring, urging affiliation to Labour.

In February, CPSA members, who are largely employed in social security and unemployment benefit offices, voted 57,553 in favour and 21,497 against the establishment of a political fund.

At the time, they were assured that would be used to promote the union and campaign politically and not to help to finance any party.

At the last meeting of CPSA's executive, Mr Ellis argued that members would feel "conned" if an affiliation ballot was held but he was over-ruled by the controlling Militant group.

Mr Ellis's letter to Sir Robert is in response to what the union regards as the "leak" of a veiled threat that, if the CPSA does affiliate to the Labour Party, steps will be taken to remove its right to negotiate over pay and conditions.

Union leaders feel that machinery would be introduced which would only give them an advisory role, similar to that in the scheme imposed by the Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, on teachers.

Mr Ellis and other mod-

erates fear that the actions of the union's leadership will weaken the CPSA as members "vote with their feet" and leave the union.

Already, some of their strongholds, in the Ministry of Defence and Metropolitan Police, have only about 30 per cent representation and that could lead the Government to argue that the union was no longer representative.

Since CPSA members rejected the Militant call for a strike over pay earlier this year, membership of the union has dropped from more than 150,500 to about 143,000.

In 1983, CPSA members voted 31,479 in favour and 65,922 against forging direct links with the party.

Labour official wins dismissal appeal

The Labour Party's dismissal of its first sales and marketing officer, Miss Nik Oakley, from her £11,700-a-year job was unfair, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Lord Justice Watkins, said the facts amply justified the submission by Miss Oakley's counsel that the Labour Party had made up its mind to get rid of her and the restructuring of her department was a pretext and a "charade".

The court allowed, with costs, an appeal by Miss Oakley, of Old Mill Lane, Hunton Bridge, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, from an employment appeal tribunal in favour of the Labour Party.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused. The case now goes back to an industrial tribunal to consider compensation.

Lord Justice Watkins said it was a little ironic that the

restructuring had been recommended in a report prepared by Miss Oakley.

She was appointed the party's first sales and marketing officer, under a fixed-term contract for a year, from January 1985. Her contract was not renewed.

Lord Justice Watkins said the party decided to reorganize the sales and marketing unit with the disappearance of Miss Oakley's job and the

creation of a new one, involving broadly similar duties.

Lord Justice Watkins said the employment appeal tribunal had accepted that the decision to restructure the department was a "substantial reason" for Miss Oakley's dismissal. An industrial tribunal had found that Miss Oakley should have been given "a fair crack of the whip" in applying for the new job.

University entrants now better qualified

By John Clare

Education Correspondent

University undergraduates are better qualified now than they have ever been, the Universities Central Council on Admissions reported yesterday.

It shows that over the past 20 years the proportion of young people admitted to university with at least three grade Cs at A level has risen from 58 per cent to 78 per cent.

At the same time, the proportion of successful applicants with three grade As, or something close to it, has risen from 22 per cent to 32 per cent.

The proportion of those gaining a place with only two A levels has fallen from 15 per cent to 7 per cent.

In spite of the rising entry hurdle, the council says there is no shortage of well-qualified school-leavers and no evidence, as is sometimes claimed, of a "limited pool of ability".

The percentage of undergraduates whose fathers are in professional or managerial jobs has increased but the council says that is because of significant changes in the occupational structure of Britain. There has been a relatively faster increase in the participation rates for children of manual than of non-manual workers.

About 30 per cent of the successful applicants from schools in England and Wales come from the independent sector, although it educates only 7 per cent of the pupils.

The report says a striking change over the past 20 years is the increased proportion of women candidates, up from 30 per cent to 44 per cent.

Since 1968, the number of men applying to university has increased by 19 per cent but the number of women has risen by 118 per cent.

About half the total of 152,000 students who applied last year were given a place.

Another big change is in the range and variety of courses universities offer. The number of courses has increased from 3,600 to nearly 9,000 as new branches of knowledge have been introduced and established branches have been subdivided, the report says. UCCA Silver Jubilee 1961-86 (Universities Central Council on Admissions, PO Box 28, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 1HY).

Receiver gets jail sentence

An Official Receiver was jailed yesterday for four months concurrently after pleading not guilty to three charges of obtaining property by deception.

York Crown Court was told that Robert Douglas, aged 54, of Ash Tree Green, Carlton, Stockton-on-Tees, who was head of the Leeds office, had claimed a weekly lodging allowance although he commuted 130 miles daily from his home.

Remand after Henley attack

John Howard, aged 22, of Clarence Road, Henley, who broke a glass bottle over the head of a youth aged 16 at the Royal Henley Regatta this year, was found guilty by magistrates at Maidenhead yesterday of malicious wounding.

Howard was remanded in custody until November 4, to allow assessment of his suitability for community service.

£425,000 for crash victim

Mr Steven Smith, aged 20, of Boardman Avenue, Chingford, Essex, was awarded damages of £425,000 in the High Court in London yesterday for injuries suffered in a road accident three years ago.

At a separate High Court hearing, Paul Ewen, aged five, of Boyce Road, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex, whose father died in an accident at an oil refinery in 1982, was awarded damages of £7,500.

Wallaby lost

A Wallaby called Springer is thought to be hiding in vineyards after disappearing from a collector's house in Lambhurst, Kent.

WE'LL PARK YOUR WAGON WHILE YOU HEAD WEST.

PAN AM EXCLUSIVE: FREE VALET PARKING AT HEATHROW FOR TRANSATLANTIC FIRST AND CLIPPER CLASS PASSENGERS.



Martens quits over rebel mayor

From Jonathan Brande
Brussels

Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister of Belgium, yesterday tendered his resignation to King Baudouin after failing to resolve the latest crisis between the rival French and Flemish Christians in his four-party coalition Government.

The King, who has the power to refuse the Prime Minister's resignation, was considering whether to ask Mr Martens to stay on or ask one of his rivals to try to form a government. Alternatively, an election could be called.

Not for the first time, the Christian parties are at loggerheads over the position of Mr José Happart, a provincial mayor who refuses to speak Flemish. His fate will have important implications for French speakers in the Brussels suburbs.

In a long-running merry-go-round, Mr Happart has repeatedly been co-opted as mayor by the francophone majority of the local council of the Fourons, or Voeren in Flemish.

He has just as regularly been deposed by one method or another because this group of largely francophone villages is technically part of Flanders.

Mr Martens's Flemish Christian People's Party is demanding that Mr Happart be deposed of his mayoral functions once and for all.

But the francophone Christian Socialist Party is first demanding guarantees for French-speaking councillors in the Brussels suburbs.

The dispute centres on linguistic laws that designate Brussels the only official bilingual community. In the rest of the country all official business is conducted exclusively in a single language.



Mr Wilfried Martens being questioned by journalists in Brussels yesterday after announcing his resignation at the palace.

In the Fourons, and five dormitory suburbs on the borders of Brussels, a large French-speaking population is virtually unrepresented. francophone councillors must work in Flemish, and if necessary, take a test to prove they are fluent in the official language.

Mr Martens was expected to find a solution that the coalition could live with. But his suggestion that Mr Happart be told to stand down as mayor for three months, while Parliament considered a new draft of the linguistic laws, proved unacceptable to the French Christians.



Mr José Happart: he refuses to speak Flemish.

Vote on Cambodia withdrawal

Setback at UN for Vietnam

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Despite intense efforts to change its international image, the Vietnamese Government suffered a severe setback as the United Nations General Assembly demanded yesterday, by the largest majority ever, an immediate end to its occupation of Cambodia.

The vote of 117 to 21 with 16 abstentions brought the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) group, spearheading the anti-Vietnamese campaign, one more supporter than last year. The result elated Asean members and backers, who feared that after eight years of almost unanimous censure the Vietnamese occupation would begin to be regarded as a permanent reality.

In recent weeks Vietnam announced several diplomatic initiatives, including support for informal talks with factions of the Cambodian opposition and an offer to give Prince Norodom Sihanouk a post in the Cambodian Government. The Soviet Union and Vietnam, as a means of convincing the international community of their sincerity, participated in the UN debate for the first time since 1983.

But the Vietnamese and Soviet moves proved fruitless as scores of speakers rejected

Vietnam's attempt to convey an image of flexibility. The vote on Cambodia was seen as providing momentum to a similar campaign by Pakistan to prevent any erosion of support for its drive to isolate the Soviet Union over its occupation of Afghanistan—a matter to be debated later in the General Assembly.

Both the issues of Cambodia and Afghanistan are seen as huge impediments to Moscow's overwhelming desire to gain a foothold in American spheres of influence. The intensity of Vietnam's diplomatic effort has been superseded by that of the Soviet-backed Afghan Government to see that its overtures to the insurgents are accepted as more than empty gestures.

The Soviet Union attempted to put on a brave face following the assembly defeat as its delegate, Mr Aleksandr Belongov, spoke of "favorable opportunities that now exist for making progress in the Cambodian settlement". But Mr Nguyen dy Nien, Vietnam's Deputy Foreign Minister, criticized the resolution, predicting that it would lengthen the stalemate, since it failed to ensure against the return of the Pol Pot regime.

Shultz in tough peace mission

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, left for the Middle East yesterday to try to promote peace talks between Israel and the Arab states, but without any firm indications that either side is ready to make concessions.

He will then go on to Moscow, where he is to settle the remaining details of a medium-range arms control agreement and pin down a date for a summit meeting here.

Mr Shultz has been reluctant to involve himself in the Middle East, believing that the US should not seem to be more eager for talks than the parties themselves. His last visit was in 1985. But Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, has put pressure on him to try to start negotiations.

Mrs Thatcher has also strongly urged the Reagan Administration to help convene an international peace conference. But the Israeli Government is deeply split on this, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, has repeatedly indicated that he will not agree to any conference that includes the Soviet Union.

In an interview published in Jerusalem on Wednesday, Mr Shamir said that such a conference would force Israel to give up all the territories captured in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Stagnation in the Middle East is considered highly dangerous here, especially in view of the crisis in the Gulf. That message will also be brought here by the Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, who will hold talks next week at the invitation of Vice-President George Bush.

Prince Abdullah is expected to discuss the Gulf situation, where congress has called on Saudi Arabia to give the US more visible support.

Mr Shultz is due to arrive in Israel today, fly to Saudi Arabia for a few hours on Saturday, return to Israel and then go to Cairo on Monday before flying to London where he will meet King Hussein of Jordan. Mr Shultz will then go on to Moscow on October 22 and 23.

He will discuss the Middle East, among other regional issues, with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister. The Soviet position on the inclusion of Palestinians in a peace conference is somewhat blurred.

The two men will also review the progress of their negotiations in framing an intermediate-range nuclear forces agreement.

WORLD SUMMARY

Redgrave backed by appeal judges

New York — The Boston Symphony Orchestra infringing the civil rights of Vanessa Redgrave when it cancelled a series of concerts in which she was to perform, an appeals court has ruled (Charles Bremner writes).

The finding of the Boston circuit court was the latest chapter in a long legal battle between the politically-active actress and the orchestra, which began when it dropped her in 1982 from a programme in which she was to narrate Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*. The orchestra said it cancelled because it had received threats that the performance would be disrupted by pro-Israeli demonstrators angered at her support for the Palestine Liberation Organization. Two of the three appeal judges rejected the orchestra's claim, upheld by lower courts, that disruptions could cause danger and detract from the artistic integrity of its production.

Duarte's Warship peace bid rethink

Washington — President Duarte of El Salvador yesterday called on Nicaragua's warships after the devastating Iraqi missile attack on the frigate USS Stark in the Gulf last May (Mohsin Ali writes).

His call, similar to one made by President Arias of Costa Rica, author of the Central America peace agreement, came amid repeated Nicaraguan refusals to deal directly with the rebel leaders.

The deadlock is emerging as the most serious threat to the agreement, due to take effect on November 7.

Madrid sacks general

Madrid — The Government summarily sacked the top general in Saragossa for publicly criticizing a new system of promotions, according to reports published here yesterday (Harry Debelius writes).

Brigadier-General Joaquín Segura was relieved of his posts, including that of military governor of Saragossa, within hours of making a speech in Barcelona on Wednesday at the ceremony marking the installation of a new military district commander for north-east Spain. General Segura told the audience that he thought he should have got the post himself.

Lefebvre Briton is deported

Ecopse (Renter) — Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, whose dissident order has threatened the Roman Catholic Church with a schism, will fly to Rome today for talks with officials at the Vatican, his secretary in Switzerland said yesterday.

The traditionalist French archbishop, aged 81, who does not wish to give up his use of the old-style Latin Mass, was to leave his mountain-side seminary here yesterday, but delayed the visit, a secretary spokeswoman said. No reason was given.

Climate suits Kohl

Bonn — Chancellor Helmut Kohl, right, and West Germany's Social Democrat Opposition were in rare agreement yesterday when both saw positive developments in East-West German relations (John England writes).

The meeting of minds came in a four-hour parliamentary debate after Herr Kohl's annual speech on the state of the nation. He said the recent visit to West Germany by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, and the US-Soviet intention to dismantle their missiles in Europe was an expression of a favourable East-West climate to which his government had contributed.

He said the greatest success in the Government's *Deutschlandpolitik* was the marked increase in travel between the two Germanies. Five million East Germans are expected to visit West Germany this year. Herr Kohl also confirmed that he expected Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, to visit West Germany in the "not too distant future".



Aquino begins to woo Army

Manila, Philippines (Renter) — President Aquino, bidding for the Army's loyalty, began a tour of Philippine military bases yesterday, but only after troops had been stripped of their weapons by presidential guards. The President, who has survived five coup attempts from within the military, warned opponents against trying again.

About 100 paramilitary police and soldiers were ordered by Mrs Aquino's security guards to remove the magazines from their firearms, empty their holsters,

and put pistols into safe-keeping before she arrived at the Bulacan provincial command camp, the soldiers said. "Normally I'm a very patient woman and I'm very kind. But when I'm hit the wrong way, people better watch out," she said.

"This goes for the people who are trying to put down the Government, whether from the extreme left or the extreme right."

President Aquino chose the tiny rundown command camp, in poor countryside

north of Manila, to launch her campaign to win over the Army. The visit was the first to a military installation outside Manila since a coup attempt on August 28 almost toppled her Government. Troops from Bulacan were credited with stopping rebel reinforcements joining the mutinous soldiers in Manila.

The camp symbolized many of the criticisms made by rebel officers about the state of the Army. The concrete basketball court was cracked and unusable, and windows in the buildings were mostly broken.

Mounting suspense in the Unesco election race

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The suspense in the political soap opera, which the election for a new director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has become, will last until the last voting round tonight — and undoubtedly beyond.

It would appear from the entrenched positions which have been obvious during voting rounds this week that

President Kaunda of Zambia has not helped the African cause by "persuading" the present holder of the office, Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, from Senegal, to stand for an unprecedented third term.

Mr M'Bow thought he could count on solid African and Arab backing, but it is clear this is not the case. In the four voting rounds to date, his total has fluctuated between 18 and 23, and on Wednesday night dropped to 21. An absolute majority of 26 was

needed in the first four rounds.

Tonight's vote will be a runoff between Mr M'Bow and Señor Federico Mayor, the former Education Minister of Spain, whose share of votes has steadily risen from half-a-dozen to 19. Much will depend on the attitude of the Soviet bloc, Indonesia and France.

While African and Arab states are publicly taking Western backstage manoeuvres on voting intentions as a

personal affront to the Third World, and Africa particularly, the position of the Soviet bloc and Indonesia is less clear. In public, they feel they must speak for the Third World — but privately, the Soviet bloc has been hinting it does not wish to see Mr M'Bow re-elected.

France has its own reasons for going against the general Western tide and supporting Mr M'Bow. Paris at first surprised many by publicly declaring its support for Gen-

eral Khan. When he dropped out, the French switched their allegiance to Mr M'Bow for reasons that have little to do with the salvation of Unesco.

Their strong links with Africa meant they could not let down Senegal. It has been necessary too for France to support a Third World Candidate in order that the Assistant Director-General, M. Michel de Bonnacore — a Frenchman — might retain his position.

Six weeks of surgery for Siamese twins

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A long series of operations is to begin here next week to separate girl Siamese twins joined at the head. It could take between six weeks and two months to complete the surgery.

Neurosurgeons at Baragwanath hospital in Soweto, the black township outside Johannesburg, are being advised on techniques by American doctors at the Johns Hopkins Children's Centre in Baltimore who successfully separated the West German twins, Patrick and Benjamin Binder, last month. They were also joined at the head, and the operation took 22 hours.

Professor Robert Lipschitz, head of neurosurgery at Baragwanath, said the South African twins, Mpho (Sofie for gift) and Mphanyama (little gift) Mthethela, now 10 months old, shared a brain artery leading from the brain and the length of the junction was longer than it was with the Binder twins.

He said the operation would be done in stages. The first, next Thursday or Friday, would entail separation of the brains "and depending on what we find when we go in, we will slowly clamp down the arteries so that other veins take over". The second stage would take place a few weeks later when the situation would be re-examined and a decision taken whether to carry out a further operation.

"The moment of truth will only be known when we do the operation," said Professor Lipschitz. "This could take anything from four to 40 hours. Providing there are no complications, it should take between six weeks and two months to complete the operation." However, the chances of both twins surviving were not very great, Professor Lipschitz added. "I would hate to have to make the choice of retaining one of the twins, but the possibility is there," he said.

The girls, who jointly weigh 29.7 lb, are progressing well and Mphanyama has grown her first tooth.

Their mother, Miss Sophie Mthethela, a 33-year-old domestic worker earning 150 rands (\$46) a month, said yesterday she was horrified when she was told she had given birth to two girls "who did not look like other children." Miss Mthethela, who has two other children aged 14 and 10, said that for three days she refused to see the twins but once she was persuaded to make contact she immediately accepted and loved "my little gifts from God".

Professor Lipschitz said she had accepted the possibility of only one twin surviving but "we are going to give both an equal chance." He added the costs of the operation "have been taken care of". So far it had cost Miss Mthethela four rands.

Medical sources here said yesterday there have been only 24 recorded cases of Siamese twins joined by the head, three of them in South Africa.

© BALTIMORE: The West German Siamese twin boys separated in a 22-hour operation five weeks ago could be

breathing on their own by the weekend, their doctor said yesterday (Renter reports).

Dr Mark Rogers, chief of Paediatric Intensive Care, overseeing their recovery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, said the assessment was the most optimistic since eight-month-old Patrick and Benjamin Binder were separated on September 6.

However, the twins, who were born in Ulin, West Germany, remain semi-comatose and Dr Rogers said the specialists involved in the case could not guarantee that they would fully recover.

Both boys suffered a partial collapse of a lung three weeks ago, forcing doctors to attach them to mechanical breathing devices.

Their breathing has since improved and Dr Rogers said it was likely Patrick will be breathing on his own by Friday and Benjamin by the weekend.

They were born joined at the back of the head with fused skulls and skulls. Their brains were separate.

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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Fear and misery haunt besieged Jaffna

Indians dig in around town

From Michael Hamlyn
Colombo

With no electricity for five days, the sanitation system broken down, no water, no way of distributing food even if it was available, and with the heart of the town being mortared from Indian Army positions in the old Dutch fort, the 150,000 people still left in Jaffna are leading a life of misery, fear and danger.

Many, no one knows how many, have died in the shelling. Many more have been wounded and cannot be treated in the town's hospitals because medical supplies have run out. The Indians say that they have urged the population to leave, but that the guerrilla fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are preventing them from going.

Many of the people, the Indian High Commission said last night, are spending the nights in the temples and colleges that were designated as places of safety by the Indian forces when they began the assault on the town. They are going home during the day to salvage what food they can and to protect their property as best they can.

"The civil authorities say they have enough food," an Indian official said, "but distribution is a problem. The shops are not open and no lorry driver is willing to drive into the town, for fear of landmines." The official made the point that the Indians, battling their way into the town against stiff opposition, are fighting only on one well-



A mother and daughter sheltering yesterday at a refugee camp in Colombo housing 700 Sinhalese fleeing from Tamils.

defined axes and that other roads are not blocked by them. "There is," the official admitted, "considerable civilian displacement and hardship, despite our best efforts. That is why we have urged

the LTTE not to hold the Tamil population hostage, and surrender their arms." The Indian High Commission said that it had received reports from Jaffna hospitals that they had run out of oxygen

cylinders and bandages. But a Tamil spokesman in Colombo, quoting reports that he had received from Jaffna itself, said that the principal hospital had been almost completely abandoned and had virtually

ceased to function.

"Conditions are very bad," he said. "There is an acute shortage of food, water and medicines." The Jaffna people say that their electricity was cut off at the start of the

fighting as a result of a deliberate decision by the authorities, either Sri Lankan or Indian, to deny the LTTE supply for their weapons.

The Indians also said last night that they would not air-drop supplies into the town, "because there is no guarantee that it would go to the people it was intended for".

"There is a complete state of chaos in the town," the former Tamil MP, Dr Neelan Tiruchelvam, said last night in Colombo. "The fighting continues to be very severe. The authorities are not at all prepared for the job of distribution of supplies - there is no machinery for it."

"The horrendous shortage of medical assistance for these people means that there will be major public health hazards."

Yesterday the chairman of the Jaffna Red Cross, Mr S. Balasubramanian, appealed through the BBC for civilians to be spared the effects of the fighting. He called for food and supplies of medicine to be sent in urgently.

Saying that heavy shelling had caused many civilian casualties, he noted that the Indian forces appeared to be blocked on the outskirts of the town.

The Indians last night described mortar shelling being carried out from the fort. "There is intermittent fighting there," the High Commission official said. "We are using mortar fire to neutralize firing at the fort" from entrenched LTTE positions.

From Our Own Correspondent, Colombo

Having broken through the outer defences of the town of Jaffna by crossing the lagoon from Navatkuli on the east, the Indian forces spent yesterday consolidating their positions.

There was no further forward movement and the troops are now at a junction less than a mile from the municipal limit of the town proper. They are approximately the same distance again from the largest temple complex in the area at Nallur, where thousands of refugees are sheltering.

The Indians have described meeting stiff resistance and being involved in house to house clearing of guerrilla strongholds.

There was no further forward movement on the north-eastern axis into the town from Palay to Urumpirai. Western diplomats observed yesterday that the Indian forces had been badly mauled in this area when they landed helicopter-borne commandos in an area which was not safe, a tactical error which cost many casualties.

There was some further forward movement, however, on the Kankesanur to Chunnakam axis, and the Indian forces have now moved south to Maruthanadam, bringing the advancing force roughly level with the force stalled at Urumpirai, further east along the road from Manipai to Kopai North.

The Indians exploded an arms dump and ammunition depot south of the crossroads, and during this action three guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were killed.

An official of the Indian High Commission in Colombo last night said field guns had been used at Chunnakam firing directly into guerrilla bunkers.

Troops inside the fort on the south-west corner of the town have been fighting intermittently, the official said, but have not moved any further forward into the built-up area around it.



The 'dirty tricks' scandal

More questions than answers in Barschel's death

From Richard Owen, Bonn

The central image in the death of Herr Uwe Barschel, the former Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein, is sharply in focus: the body lying almost fully clothed in the bath of Room 317 at Geneva's elegant Beau Rivage Hotel.

Stern magazine and West German newspapers yesterday carried a photograph showing Herr Barschel, his head resting on a towel, a hand lying across his neatly knotted but loosened tie, in the bath water.

A shoe lies on the rumpled bathmat, the other in the nearby bedroom. The sign on the door reads: "Do Not Disturb".

But almost everything else about this murky affair remains unclear, five days after Herr Barschel was found by a Stern reporter.

The final cause of death and the truth behind the political scandal which put Herr Barschel's future in doubt and

widow still insist he may have been murdered, and want a further post-mortem examination when the body is flown to West Germany.

Police most want to talk to the man known as Rohloff. Herr Barschel, who had taken a break in the Canary Islands before facing the Kiel inquiry, had told his anxious wife: "I shall meet him at Geneva airport; he cannot shoot me there."

West German police have given their Swiss counterparts a photograph taken at the airport of the man they think is Rohloff.

A Geneva taxi driver told a local paper that he took Herr Barschel from the hotel and to the railway station, where he had met two men. Herr Barschel did not sleep at the hotel that night or breakfast at the hotel. Yet by 11 am on Sunday he was dead.

There are suggestions that Herr Barschel may have had links with the international arms trade in Kiel and hence with the Iran-Contra affair. Kiel, a busy port, is a centre for arms and smuggling in northern Europe. He stayed in the villa of Mr Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi arms millionaire, while on holiday in the Canary Islands.

As Die Zeit observed yesterday, the Barschel affair is a tragedy without precedent in West German history and is a result of the brutal election campaign in Schleswig-Holstein.

In West Germany, local government is more powerful than in Britain. In Schleswig-Holstein Herr Barschel and Herr Engholm were struggling for power in a region which had been in Christian Democrat hands for 37 years. The Social Democrats (SPD) claimed that the local CDU was corrupt. The key figure taken on to ensure a CDU victory was Herr Pfeiffer.

Herr Barschel denied that he knew what Herr Pfeiffer was up to, but his "dirty tricks" against the SPD, spreading it about that Herr Engholm had a scandalous sex life and was evading taxes, was entirely consonant with Herr Pfeiffer's earlier career in Bremen, where he ran a CDU newspaper specializing in scandal about the SPD.

Herr Nilius, the SPD press officer, is said to have known what Herr Pfeiffer was up to. One theory is that Herr Engholm was aware of the smear campaign and that it was meant to rebound on Herr Barschel.

Chancellor Kohl, whose only reaction so far has been to say that Herr Barschel's death "strikes one dumb", is also under pressure to make a statement.

There are still unanswered questions: could some untraceable poison of the kind used by the KGB be the real cause of death, and if so who could have supplied it? If Herr Barschel took the pills voluntarily was the mystery rendezvous designed to give the impression of murder rather than suicide - and if so, why?

Herr Pfeiffer is due to give evidence in Kiel next week to what should have been an inquiry into election dirty tricks and is now becoming an inquiry into a much bigger, even dirtier, business.



Herr Uwe Barschel.

● Could some untraceable poison of the kind used by the KGB be the real cause of death? ●

which may have led to his death must still be established.

Three men have crucial roles in the affair. The first is "Robert Rohloff", the informant whom Herr Barschel met in Geneva on Saturday in an effort to clear his name over allegations that he had authorized a "dirty tricks" campaign to undermine Herr Björn Engholm, the Social Democratic leader in Schleswig-Holstein.

The second is Herr Klaus Nilius, Herr Engholm's press officer, and the third is Herr Reiner Pfeiffer, Herr Barschel's press officer, and the man who revealed the "dirty tricks" allegations on the eve of the critical election in Schleswig-Holstein on September 13.

A second post-mortem examination in Geneva has not cleared up the mystery. The revelation that five kinds of sleeping pill and tranquillizer were found in the body appears to point to suicide.

The assumption is that Herr Barschel, cracking up under the strain of the scandal, felt unable to face the parliamentary inquiry into the smear campaign which was to have opened in Kiel on Monday. But the Geneva police are refusing to give an official cause of death, originally said to be a heart attack.

They say no pill bottles were found and are still looking for a bottle of Beaujolais ordered by Room 317 on Saturday. Herr Barschel's brother and

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Moynihan tells Soviet TV viewers of 'rights hell'

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Millions of Soviet television viewers were treated yesterday to the unprecedented sight of a US politician informing them that they lived in a "human rights hell" where restrictions on emigration and freedom of the press were worse than those imposed under the tsars.

Senator Daniel Moynihan, a Democrat and for years an outspoken critic of the Kremlin's human rights record, launched his damning diatribe during a two-hour satellite link between politicians in Moscow and Washington that was broadcast live and unedited in both capitals simultaneously.

An invited audience of deputies to the Supreme Soviet, Moscow's rubberstamp parliament, laughed nervously in the Kremlin studio as Mr Moynihan described their political system as a one-party dictatorship and went on to demand: "Can you not escape from the iron clutches of the Kremlin?"

At this point, the chief Soviet participant, Mr Vadim Zagladin, a close confidant of foreign policy matters of Mr

Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, intervened from the Moscow end to demand whether the US senator was using the programme to call for "an uprising" against the legitimate Government of the Soviet Union.

The heated exchange was the highlight of what was by common consent the most controversial programme ever shown by Soviet state television. It was first broadcast in Moscow at 6.30 a.m. and Washington at 11.30 p.m. in place of the normal ABC Nightline programme, and later repeated throughout the Soviet Union immediately after the main evening news.

For the first time, Soviet viewers were shown psychiatric hospitals where they were told that 100 prisoners were incarcerated because of their political views. They saw KGB men roughing up Jewish demonstrators in Moscow and secret KGB film of the dissident physicist, Dr Andrei Sakharov, taken when he was in exile and given to the West.

Senator Moynihan, who quickly emerged as the star of

the show, also informed the Soviet audience — estimated at about 150 million — that they would all "feel better" if the state allowed Baptists and other persecuted religious minorities in the Soviet Union freedom of worship.

As widely different estimates of the number of would-be emigrants were thrown from side to side (Soviet estimates in hundreds of thousands), Mr Peter Jennings, the smooth ABC anchorman, turned to the Kremlin officials and asked: "Why don't you let people go who want to?"

The Soviet spokesmen hit back at the US on subjects such as homelessness and unemployment.

The programme, the second of three such debates entitled *Capital to Capital*, showed the yawning gap between each superpower's perception of the human rights record of the other. One of the few points of agreement was that both countries suffered from drink and drug problems.

Mr Zagladin disclosed that

the Kremlin was now reviewing two of the most notorious articles in its criminal code, used frequently in the past to send dissidents to jail or labour camp on charges of anti-Soviet agitation or defamation of the Soviet state. He said one, Article 190 (1), might be scrapped.

The Kremlin's trump card was played when the Americans screened a photograph of a Soviet Jewish couple, Mr and Mrs Natan, whom they claimed had been refused permission over many years to leave Moscow to join relatives abroad. Looking nonchalant, Mr Zagladin dismissed the story as out of date, revealing that the couple had already been given official permission to go.

Ms Betsy West, the ABC executive in charge of the link, later told *The Times* that information that the couple's case would be featured had been released to the Soviet side two days previously. This gave the Kremlin 48 clear hours in which to ensure that its change of heart received maximum exposure.

Freed Jew attacks Kremlin gimmick

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Miss Ida Nudel, the "guardian angel" of Soviet Jewish refuseniks, was flying to Israel yesterday on board an American millionaire's jet to a heroine's welcome from thousands, including politicians, religious leaders and a carefully chosen cross-section of Israeli society.

Her 16-year struggle for an exit visa from the Soviet Union was supported by world figures as diverse as Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Jane Fonda, the US actress. Mrs

Chaike Grossman, a Knesset member, said: "Ida is more than a mere person. She is an institution and a concept."

Her surprise release, however, has left Israel's politicians divided and puzzled as to what it means, while Soviet Jewish activists are worried that the freeing of the best-known remaining refuseniks simply means that Moscow is seeking a public relations triumph which will leave forgotten the 400,000 others claimed to want exit visas.

Other well-known refuseniks being allowed out later this month include Mr Vladimir Slepak, whose 17-year wait is the longest of all, Colonel Lev Ovsischer, a Second World War pilot credited with shooting down 11 German aircraft, and Mr Sergei Diachkov, the composer and pianist.

Miss Nudel, aged 56, feels her release is a gimmick. In a telephone interview from Moscow, she said: "In ancient times the Pharisees used to

please the chiefs of neighbouring countries with very exotic things like a white crocodile. I feel that I am like a white crocodile. I was used to please President Reagan and Mr George Shultz before a meeting of the superpowers."

She said she believed Soviet Jews were being used as "tools or goods" to establish a new international image and to achieve certain international goals — very much the view of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister.

Bid to rescue child in well



Rescuers in Midland, Texas, listening at the mouth of an abandoned well for sounds from Jessica McClure, aged 18 months, who was trapped 20 feet down after falling in.

Rescue workers were yesterday drilling through rock in a bid to reach the crying toddler (AP reports). A police spokesman said: "The emergency doctor at the scene last night said the baby can last as long as 36 hours. We hope it doesn't take that long."

The child had been inside the well since

Wednesday. Rescue workers could not predict when they would reach her and yesterday morning they reported that eight inches of rock still separated them from her.

"It is solid rock right now. It is pretty slow going," said Dr David Felice. He said the girl was getting adequate oxygen and was believed to be on her back in a fairly comfortable position.

At dawn yesterday, rescue workers said the girl was awake and crying.

Riot police storm Peruvian bank

Lima (Reuters) — Hundreds of riot police surrounded Peru's biggest private bank and smashed down its doors with an armoured truck to enforce a new bank nationalization law, witnesses said.

Riot police, some firing tear gas to disperse protesters, ringed the Banco de Credito as economy ministry administrators moved in.

Fugitives held

Tunis (Reuters) — Two fugitive leaders of an Islamic fundamentalist group have been arrested, including one condemned to death.

Lucky strike

Manila (AFP) — A prospector knocked out by a landslide at a mining site in the Philippines woke up to find a gold-laden rock worth \$3,500 by his side.

'Aide' ban

Oklahoma (AFP) — The school district of Norman has dropped the word "aide" from job titles and replaced it with "assistant" to avoid any possible confusion with the disease Aids.

Lover's bomb

Hong Kong (Reuters) — A man killed by his bus conductor girlfriend set off a bomb on her tourist bus in south China, killing them both.

Raid killings

Agartala, India (Reuters) — Tribal guerrillas autonomy shot and hacked 16 people to death in two separate raids in Tripura state.

Children die

Wisconsin (Reuters) — Six children aged between one and 17 died in a house fire apparently started by an electric heater.

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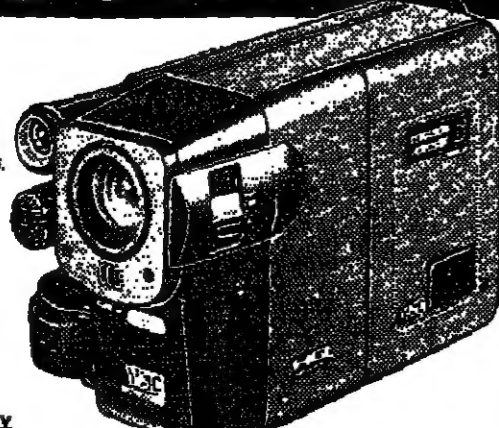
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Experts fall out over breathing life into a dome

Italy, which boasts some of the world's most extraordinary art treasures, is increasingly at odds about how to preserve its Renaissance heritage. Roger Boyes reports from Florence in the first of two articles on fierce rows that pit technicians against aesthetes, and politicians against everybody else.

The cupola of Florence's cathedral resembles an orange sliced in half, waiting to be crushed into jelly. It is a huge, magnificent 15th-century construction by the architect, Filippo Brunelleschi.

However, the cupola is proving to be too heavy. More than 1,500 cracks have developed, spreading upwards like ladder-stocks. Sooner or later something will collapse.

How can the damage be stopped before it is too late? A stormy argument has broken out as the various engineers, architects, art historians, conservationists and bureaucrats fight for the ear of the Minister of Culture, Signor Carlo Vizzini.

The minister is a Sicilian tax lawyer, a combination that demands very special talents. Whether he will be able to sort out the muddle in Florence remains to be seen.

To be born "under the shadow of the cupola" is a mark of the true Florentine, just as Cockneys are supposed to hear Bow bells soon after entering the world.

The true Florentine, unlike the true Cockney, later becomes an arch-conspirator, either plotting for power (like Machiavelli) or feeding within the family (the latest case being the Guccis, the princes of the leather trade). The cupola is a fine focus for these political skills.

At the beginning of the 15th century, the construction of Florence cathedral — so vast that it cannot be seen in its entirety from the cathedral square — ran into trouble when the builders realized that it was virtually impossible to design a cupola big enough.

Brunelleschi won the competition to build the cupola, but even with his segmented-orange design there was the problem of how the walls would support it. Certainly the Florentines were rather nervous about Brunelleschi's plans to build the cupola — 140 ft in diameter — without buttresses.

Fifty years before, the cupola of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople — built with Italian advice — had collapsed. Brunelleschi, the first real

engineering consultant of modern times, created a system of flying centring.

The vault was given a double wall — one climbs between them now to reach the top of the cathedral — reinforced by stone chains. It took 14 years to raise the cupola, which topped the cathedral only in 1436.

But after five centuries the engineering feat is looking distinctly unsteady. Recently when art historians wanted to restore the cupola frescoes by Giorgio Vasari, they installed a steel frame for the craftsman. "No," say members of the restoration committee, including some top architects. "The work, or rather the scaffolding, will upset the

At war over Italy's past

Part 1: Florence

delicate breathing mechanism of the dome."

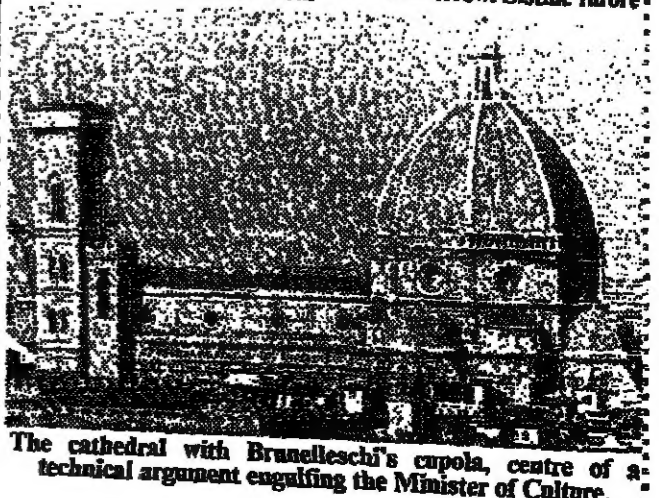
The cracks expand in winter and shrink, almost completely, in summer as the building adapts (or breathes) in response to the temperature. Some experts claim the restoration work on the inside would aggravate the cracks on the outside of the cupola.

"Nonsense," according to a hard-nosed group of technicians — including the building superintendent, Signor Angiolo Calvani — in an open letter this month to the Culture Minister in which they urge him to "let work proceed".

Ultimately, the Minister has to decide. Other long-term threats to the cupola — air pollution, acid rain, supersonic military aircraft from the nearby Livorno base, and vibrations from traffic — are fundamentally political problems.

But as Italian governments come and go, culture ministers barely have time to blow the dust off the Florence file before they have to pick up their bat and exit, stage left.

Tomorrow: Sistine favours



The cathedral with Brunelleschi's cupola, centre of a technical argument engulfing the Minister of Culture.

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Ganilau may become Fiji President by weekend

From Gavin Bell, Suva

Fiji's military ruler expects Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, the Governor-General, to resign by the weekend and to be nominated as first President of the new republic.

Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, the head of the interim military Government, told a press conference yesterday he also anticipated that a new constitution would be completed within a month.

He said that Ratu Ganilau had telephoned him on Wednesday night, after receiving a call from Sir William Heseltine, the Queen's private secretary.

Colonel Rabuka said: "I think the point he wanted me to understand was that he had to make a firm stand fairly soon and that the private secretary, and perhaps Her Majesty, were expecting a response from him within the next 48 hours."

"I expressed the wish that he co-operate with the regime, in the sense that he either asks Her Majesty to release him by revoking his commission or accepting his resignation."

Colonel Rabuka said he was optimistic that the issue would be resolved within 24 hours. Asked what the outcome would be, he said: "It will probably be the end of his claiming that links (with the Crown) remain."

Should Ratu Ganilau step down, the next steps would be to implement the new Constitution and to convene the Great Council of Chiefs for them to nominate a President. "I expect him (Ratu Ganilau) to be the nominee. Whether he accepts or not is another matter."

He said he envisaged a "constructive" role for Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who was Prime Minister from independence in 1970 until April this year. Ratu Mara might return to his former office, "if he will accept".

The essence of Colonel Rabuka's remarks was that he is prepared to go along with Commonwealth demands for a return to democracy - but only after the Constitution has been revised to prevent the majority ethnic Indian community from gaining political power over the indigenous Melanesian population.

He has already said he

hopes to call a general election in a year's time.

Colonel Rabuka appears to be gaining in confidence as he strives to fulfil his self-appointed task. In contrast with the vacillation which followed his first coup in April, he now portrays an image of resolve.

He wanted Fiji to remain in the Commonwealth, but it could not afford "fickle friends who use us and discard us when it suits them".

The Commonwealth had nothing to gain by expelling Fiji. "All it will achieve is that it will antagonize very loyal supporters who have served the Commonwealth with total dedication in war and in peace."

He argued that no voice was raised against Zimbabwe, where the whites had lost their separate parliamentary seats, and it was accepted that the indigenous people must have political dominance.

Fiji welcomed Mrs Thatcher's "common sense" approach, and appreciated her efforts to keep the country in the Commonwealth.

He said: "The Commonwealth should leave us be, and decide on our worthiness for continued membership after we have reached a constitutional settlement."

"To prejudice us, and to condemn us to inflict injury on our people, is contrary to the spirit and values of the Commonwealth."

If Fiji were expelled, it would have to seek new allies and markets. "If these relationships bear fruit and come to our rescue in our hour of need, then we may very well forget the Commonwealth and not worry about rejoining."

He believed the United States would reflect very carefully on its policy in the Pacific before rejecting his regime.

On domestic issues, the colonel said the Indian community would not be victimized. He had less encouraging news for local newspapers, which have been banned from publishing since his second coup last month. They had betrayed his trust by encouraging distorted and unfair criticism of the security forces, and by failing to understand the aspirations of the Fijian people, he said.

Rabuka dismisses all the top judges

From Our Own Correspondent, Suva

Fiji faces the prospect of an indefinite period without an independent judiciary, after a decision to dismiss all its Supreme Court judges and most of its magistrates for refusing to swear allegiance to the new military regime.

Mr Keledi Bulewa, the Attorney-General, asked the Chief Justice and the Chief Magistrate on Wednesday to remain in office under oath to the interim military Government. When they refused, he informed them that their services were no longer required.

Sir Timoci Tuivaga, the Chief Justice, was asked to vacate his chambers by Monday, and Mr Howard Morrison, the Chief Magistrate, must leave by today. Both have been given until the end of the month to move out of their subsidized residences.

As Sir Timoci cleared out his office, he said: "We have to take this stand. We can no longer work under the present system, because our oaths of office and allegiance are in conflict with their oaths."

The move affects all eight Supreme Court judges in Fiji, and almost all of the 13 magistrates.

Mr Morrison said: "The effect on the judicial system here, I think, is going to be disastrous and it will take a lot

of hard work to restore any workable system."

He believed Mr Bulewa would try to maintain the Commonwealth tradition of an open and liberal judiciary, but whether he would be able to do so was another matter.

"My main worry," he added, "is that the Fijians of Indian origin are reduced to

second-class citizens. An independent magistracy has been the first mechanism for preventing that."

The military ruler, Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, said yesterday that he had formed a committee to recommend new judges, but gave no indication how long that process might take.

Mr Morrison: ordered to leave chambers by today.

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Nuclear triumph turns into disaster for Brazil

From Mac Margolis, Rio de Janeiro

Just last month, on the eve of national independence day, Brazil announced that it had joined the elite club of nations that has mastered technology for enriching uranium.

President José Sarney hailed the achievement as "a decisive step on the road to scientific and technological autonomy".

But Brazil's coming of age in the atomic era was not quite complete, not until last week. Again there were banner headlines. This time, however, the news was not of triumph but of tragedy.

The robbery late last month of a dusty piece of hospital equipment from an abandoned radiology clinic became Brazil's first nuclear disaster. By last weekend 19 people had been taken to hospital and another 26 isolated in a decontamination clinic with poisoning by caesium 137, a highly radioactive material. At least six were in intensive-care units in Rio de Janeiro, and doctors say that they have only the slimmest chance of survival. Those who live face almost certain cancer or sterility.

Wearing a protective gown, gloves and a surgical mask, President Sarney visited victims in a Goiânia hospital on Wednesday. The condition of several patients had worsened.

Dr Gerald Hansen, of the World Health Organization, one of five foreign specialists summoned by Brasília, has called it the worst accident in the Western hemisphere, second only to Chernobyl. Senator Rex Nazare Alves, president of Brazil's national commission on nuclear energy, said that it was worse even than Chernobyl.

The incident began late last month at an abandoned medical laboratory in Goiânia. Two junk collectors forced open a padlocked metal door in the clinic and unwittingly pro-



Children at a sports stadium in the centre of Goiânia being screened for radioactivity after last month's removal of caesium 137 from a disused clinic.

ceeded to take apart a radiation therapy device.

They removed a heavy cylindrical object, which they took to be lead, and sold it to a nearby junkyard. There Senator Devalir Alves de Oliveira, the yard's manager, took a hammer to the cylinder which emitted an eerie, bluish light from narrow slits. Inside lay a capsule containing a powdery bluish substance which stuck to the skin and glowed.

It was caesium 137, a radioactive isotope used in cancer therapy. Caesium 137 gives off gamma rays that, used judiciously, destroy cancerous

tissue. In massive doses, it is deadly, causing leukaemia, haemorrhaging, sterility and cataracts.

Senator Alves knew only that the bluish dust was "shiny and pretty" and proceeded to distribute bits of it as a present to the neighbors. Almost instantly, those who had touched it grew nauseated and feverish.

From the first, the nuclear commission repeated that the accident was "under control". Luckily the radioactive source was a solid, far easier to contain than Chernobyl's deadly gases. By the weekend, inspectors had confirmed -

and reportedly controlled - 14 different contaminated sites, scattered over a 120-mile area.

When the news of the disaster first broke in Goiânia, a placid regional capital of a million people in central Brazil, panic raged through the city. The nearly three dozen families evacuated from several streets quickly became pariahs.

The accident caught Brazil off guard and under-equipped. Only two days after the first victims were taken to hospital did the national commission on nuclear energy respond, sending two dozen doctors and technicians from Rio.

When the specialists arrived, there was not at first enough protective clothing. Doctors had to file emergency requests for importation of material to neutralize internal radiation.

"The accident demonstrates how precarious our conditions are and how unprepared the system is," said Senator Luis Pinguelli Rosa, a nuclear physicist and head of the Association of Brazilian Physicists. "Brazil has been too interested in development of nuclear energy and forgotten about nuclear safety."

As with Chernobyl, part of the blame is put down to red

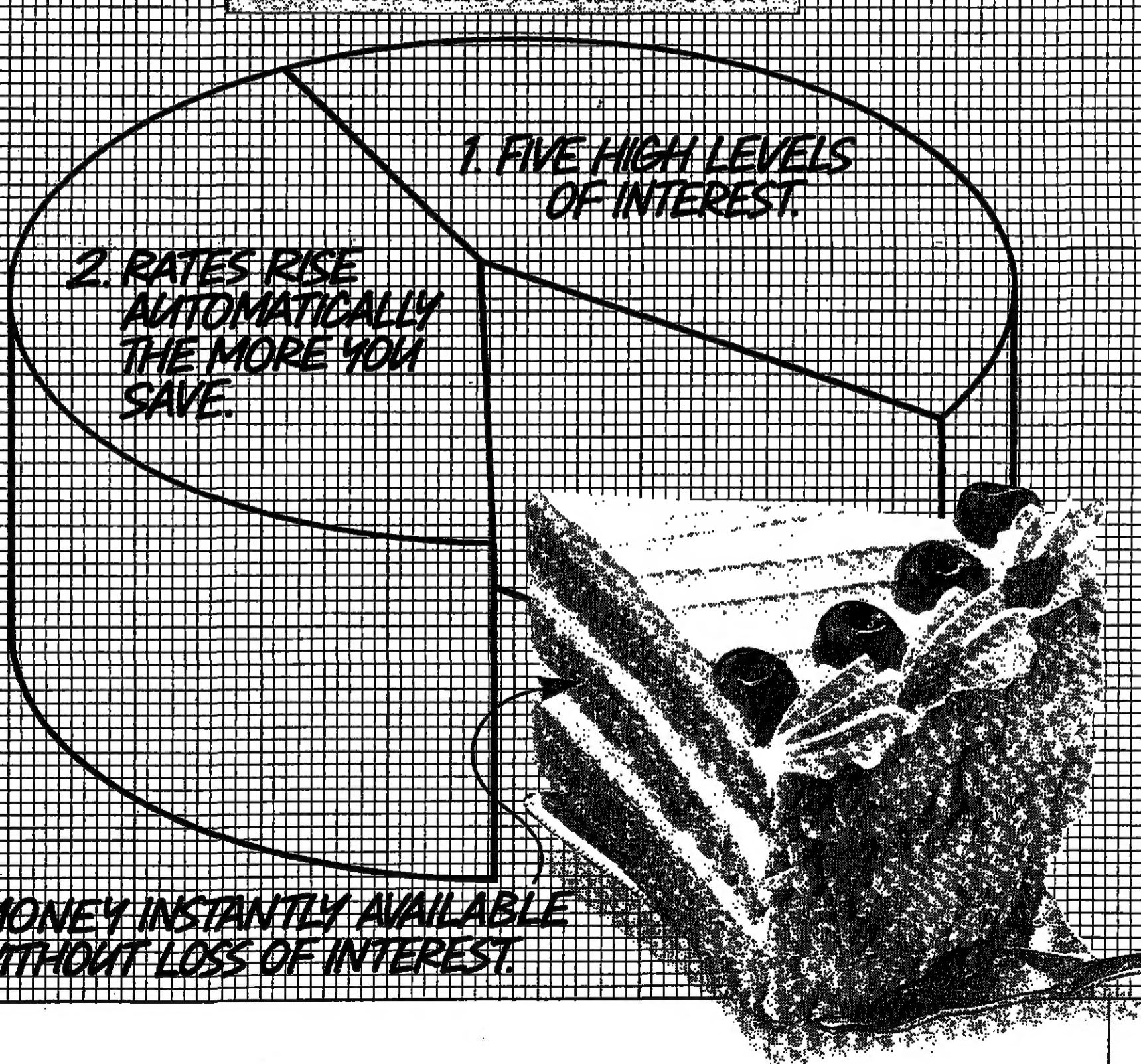
tape and incompetent inspection procedures.

The radiation clinic had actually been shut down over two years ago, but doctors had been unable to remove the radiation machine due to legal complications. The nuclear energy commission's licensing arrangements have been severely criticized.

But looming over the Goiânia debacle is another worry: the safety of Brazil's nuclear power plants.

Brazil's one working plant has had minor leaks and last year two plant workers received low doses of contamination.

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SPECTRUM

Diamond on the rocks

The boy from Queens had just one ambition – to be rich, very rich. He succeeded, but it earned him a jail sentence. Douglas Frantz charts the rise and dramatic downfall of an insider dealer

On May 26, 1980, Dennis Levine, aged 27, arrived in Nassau, the Bahamas, carrying only an overnight bag. He was dressed in blue jeans and a straw hat, he was overweight and he wore glasses. He slid into the back seat of a taxi and asked for the business district.

The following day, Levine sat in the unassuming offices of the Bank Leu International, an offshoot of Switzerland's oldest private bank. He told the manager, Jean-Pierre Frayse, that he was an investment banker from the United States, that he intended to trade actively on the US stock markets and that he would require fast and efficient service. Discretion, he told the manager, was to be of the utmost importance.

Frayse, whose brief was to expand his bank's business in a country where the banking climate was as benign as the meteorological one, realized that Levine was exactly the kind of customer he was looking for. Levine, who had visited every Swiss bank in Nassau, realized that Bank

Leu was exactly the kind of bank he was looking for.

So Levine opened an account. It was not in his name, but was called simply: Diamond. He refused to give the bank even a telephone number where he could be reached, saying that any calls would be made by him and he would identify himself only as "Mr Diamond".

His first deposit was of \$128,000. A few days later, Bank Leu received a call from Levine with an order to buy 1,500 shares in Dart Industries. Next, Levine told the bank to sell – Dart's price had

risen on news of a merger between Kraft and Dart. It was a classic, if modest, piece of insider trading. Profit to Mr Diamond: \$4,093.

On the evening of May 12, 1986, almost six years after his Bahamian excursion, Levine was due at a charity function at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. Instead, he found himself with a more pressing engagement to collect a subpoena at the US Attorney's office in Lower Manhattan. Upon arrival, he was handcuffed and charged with obstruction of justice, securities violations and tax fraud.



Big Bang: now for the fall-out. A year on, *The Times* looks at the winners, losers – and the invaders

A three-part series starting on Monday

Wall Street insider dealer jailed

From A Correspondent, New York

Dennis Levine was sentenced to two years jail and fined over \$350,000 (\$233,000) by a Federal Judge yesterday for his part in the insider trading scandal that has rocked Wall Street.

The sentence was described as lenient by sources close to the case because of Levine's cooperation with prosecutors. He faced four felony counts each carrying possible five-year sentences and \$610,000 fines.

ing \$126 million (\$84 million) from insider deals by illegally trading on non-public information.

The decision was watched closely by Mr Ted Rakoff, the lawyer for Martin Siegel, the former Kidder Peabody and Drexel merger specialist, who was arrested earlier this month.

"We wanted to see how the court would balance culpability versus cooperation," said Mr Rakoff. Siegel pleaded

February 13 and has been cooperating with investigations.

Rudolph Giuliani, the US Attorney and chief prosecutor in the insider trading cases, is seeking tough jail terms for the white collar criminals.

Levine's information helped with the arrest of Ivan Boesky and in disclosures of the Guinness scandal. More Wall Street executives are believed to be trying to avoid

Downing of a man called "Diamond": Dennis Levine, trapped at the centre of Wall Street's biggest insider dealing ring, and the court story of his amazing profits – and imprisonment



Bayside High School recall him as a follower rather than a leader, a "kid with a dirty mouth" who boasted about his prowess with girls. In 1970, when four out of five Bayside students went to college, Dennis did not; he drifted for two years, cruised on a motorcycle, occasionally helped in his father's business and even less frequently attended a community college.

Then, in the autumn of 1972, Levine surprised his family by enrolling at the prestigious Bernard Baruch college, which specialized in accounting and business management and which had long been a classic launch-pad for the sons of working class families with little more going for them than a passion to succeed. Levine, to the astonishment of everyone, applied himself to his studies with a missionary zeal.

He lived at home to save money, rode to college on his motorcycle or on the Long Island railway, wore a suit and tie in an era of jeans and long hair. He stood out. His force of personality and his artic-

ulacy impressed his lecturers, none more so than Jack Francis, an economics and finance professor at the college and a key formative influence on Levine. They seem to have had a meeting of minds. Francis understood Levine's desire to make money; they talked about it often and long, as, for example, in this exchange in Francis's office.

Francis: "Good is a nice religion. If you are really greedy, you are going to keep your shoes polished, you won't run around on your wife or get drunk. You will do whatever it takes to maximize your lifetime income, and that doesn't leave time for any messing around."

Levine: "I only want to make money."

He loved to hear Francis talk about his outside consultancy work, arranging business deals, advising on mergers – and collecting handsome fees. And, in Levine's final year, Francis allowed him to work as a kind of financial shuttle diplomat on the takeover of a furniture company.

Levine's ability to negotiate impressed Francis, and for Levine it was a glimpse of a real world – one he was determined to enter. He graduated with a master's degree in business administration (MBA) in June 1976 but it took him nine months to get a job, handicapped by his non-ivy League degree and also, as Francis told him bluntly, by his early choice of punch-drunked Italian suits for interviews. "Dennis, it looks like a suit a pimp would wear."

Eventually, dressed in more suitably sombre pin-stripes, Levine signed up with Citicorp as a management trainee in the banking house's corporate foreign exchange department. In 1978 he moved to Smith Barney, Harris, Upham & Co., a brokerage and investment house.

It was at Smith Barney that he began his illegal dealing,

but the making and the un-making of Levine was to come when he moved to Drexel, the celebrated investment firm, where he met Ivan Boesky, the richest and most influential stock-taker in the business. In seven years, Boesky had turned a \$700,000 inheritance into a \$200-million fortune.

Levine had a formal, secret and two-tier arrangement with Boesky, whom he nicknamed "the Russian". Levine would pass information about a company to Boesky and, if Boesky did not already hold stock in the company, Levine would take a commission equal to 5 per cent of Boesky's profit. If Boesky already owned stock, but bought more as a result of Levine's inside information, the commission would be less.

In the end, the one did for the other. Levine, faced with evidence and the prospect of a long jail term, gave the SEC information about others in the trading ring, including Boesky, who in turn let the

SEC monitor his phone calls – thus earning his King Rat and Mr Piggy nicknames.

Levine, who made a net profit of \$11,558,596 on deals involving 114 stocks between 1980 and 1985, was jailed for two years and had to hand over the \$10.5 million in the Nassau account. The court took away his Ferrari, but let him keep his BMW and his \$1 million apartment.

Boesky is still plea-bargaining, notably over what he may be prepared to tell the British authorities about dealings in Guinness shares.

The final twist is that one secret deal Boesky made with the SEC allowed him to sell \$440 million-worth of stock before the announcement of his "co-operation", a sale which caused the stock market to plummet.

On Wall Street, they are calling that the biggest insider deal of them all.

Adapted from *Mr Diamond*, by Douglas Frantz, to be published by Bloomsbury on Oct 29 (£13.95).



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On a bike and a bus in Tiger country

The Indian instruction to the Sri Lankan government not to fly journalists to observe the fighting against the guerrillas came as something of a blow to the self-esteem of the Sri Lankans.

It also came rather awkwardly for this reporter, the only western correspondent anywhere near what might have been called the action, and who, though curfew-bound, had wobbled on a borrowed bicycle through the deserted streets of Batticaloa to see what he could see.

A lonely ride out to the bungalow of the nervous district police superintendent failed to get me a curfew pass. He had a right to be agitated – his boss and immediate predecessor had been killed by a land mine three days earlier.

"No, no, I cannot give you a pass," he said. "There is fighting. You will get shot."

Back in town, I spent a few hours in the care of the Sri Lankan air force waiting for a plane to take me to Colombo before being told that all civilian flights had been cancelled. A Tamil woman carrying a small child burst into tears. Two Sinhalese families were more stoically disappointed.

The station commander offered to transport the Sinhalese families and me, but not for some reason the Tamil woman, out of curfew-bound Batticaloa to a safer Sinhalese area. But after some protracted negotiations I instead hired a bus, stuffed the refugees inside and set off across country for the capital.

Sheila Piyasena, the one refugee who spoke English, told me she was a teacher and had lived in Batticaloa since she was seven. It had come as a shock when she heard that the Tigers were going through the town, house by house, killing any Sinhalese they could find. She and her son ran to a neighbour's house for shelter.

We had some moments of tension when we drove through an area where bus passengers had been previously massacred, but the only real danger we faced was from the man-

When there's no way out from the war zone, the reporter must rely on resourcefulness

cal driving of the man behind the wheel. He sped through the jungle as though the bombs of hell were after him, refusing to change gear until the engine stalled.

Along the road we passed a long trail of tracks carrying refugees from Trincomalee, further north. There are now more than 500 people camped in a Buddhist temple on an island in Beira lake in the heart of the capital.

Seventy-five-year-old S. H. Pieris-Silva, for example, who has kept a grocery shop in Trincomalee, is one of them. He has no blame for his Tamil neighbours. He blames the Tamils from Jaffna for the mayhem committed against the Sinhalese. "They burned my shop," he said. "My house has been flattened." He had

lost property worth 1.2 million rupees (around £25,000), a huge sum here.

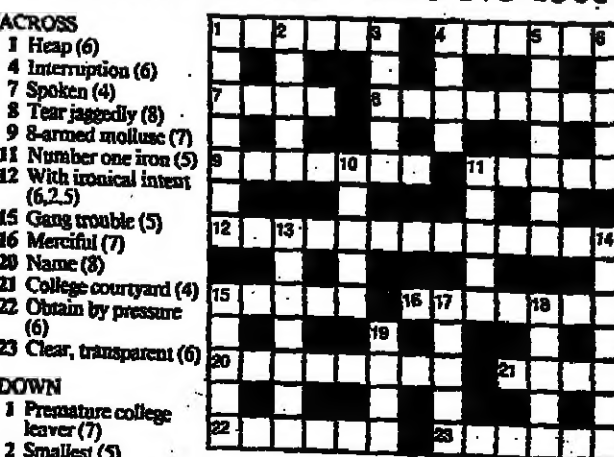
Pieris-Silva, dressed in the white sarong and high-collared shirt and carrying a black umbrella, the badges of the Sri Lankan traditionalist, described how the Tamil gangs had arrived outside his house shouting "Pogge, pogge!" ("Get out, get out"). He hid until he and his family could escape, but later heard that one of his Tamil neighbours had tried to prevent the mob from burning his home. The man was killed.

S. B. M. Vimalaratna, a 38-year-old bus driver, was at his depot in Trincomalee when he heard shooting and began running home. He saw armed men coming towards him and took cover. His conductor, S. A. Kapila, was following him down the road and ran into the armed men. They killed him.

"I could have sacrificed my life to save Kapila," Vimalaratna said sadly, "but I thought of my two children, and stayed under cover."

Michael Hamlyn

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ACROSS
1 Heap (6)
4 Interruption (6)
7 Spoken (4)
8 Tear jaggedly (8)
9 8-armed mollusc (7)
11 Number one iron (5)
12 With ironical intent (6, 5)
15 Gang trouble (5)
16 Merciful (7)
20 Name (8)
21 College courtyard (4)
22 Obtain by pressure (6)
23 Clear, transparent (6)
DOWN
1 Premature college leaver (7)
2 Smallest (5)
3 Flavoured rice (5)
4 Ordinary journalist (4)
5 Sailing boat ding (7)
6 Smooth, shiny (5)
10 Underworld god (5)
11 Recurring period (5)
13 Not attend to (7)
14 US grasshopper (7)
15 Tolerant (5)
17 Faithful (5)
18 Furnish (5)
19 Coin factory (4)

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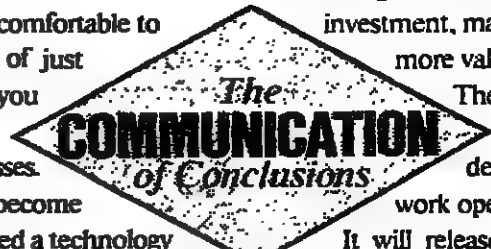
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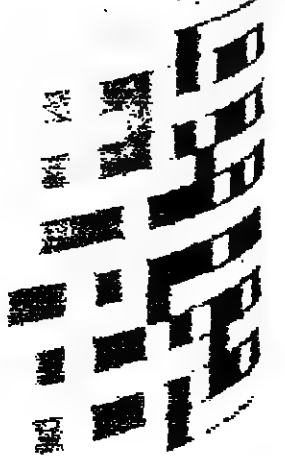
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THE TIMES DIARY

Lords a-leaping

Lord Cledwyn, Labour's leader in the Lords, is set to stay in post for another term, and will be re-elected unopposed early next month. The peer is staying not only through loyalty to Neil Kinnock, but because any suitable replacement, such as a former minister, is as yet too inexperienced for the position. Meanwhile, rumours in the Upper House that Lord Young would take over next year as leader in place of Lord Whitelaw have sparked off unkindly sentiments. Such is the ill-feeling towards the man who is set to chair the Conservative Party and run the DTP simultaneously, that an all-party delegation told Whitelaw that he would be unacceptable. Mind, Young's promotion would be a relief to some who have heard mutterings that Mrs Thatcher, anxious to avenge herself on recalcitrant peers who throw out her legislation, may send Norman Tebbit to run the other place.

Carrot and stick

Edwina Currie can take comfort from the latest recipe to be donated by the Prime Minister in the name of charity publishing. I mentioned last month (PMS Sept 30) that Mrs Thatcher's Banana and Toffee Pie in a recipe book compiled by her daughter's old school had been deemed a "fatty treat" by one nutrition expert. In *The House of Commons Cookery Book* she offers Sauté of Chicken with Tarragon Sauce which, though involving butter and wine, sounds less lethal. But Mrs Thatcher has a long way to go before she matches Mrs Currie's culinary purity. In the same book the health minister gives a recipe for carrot cake that is not only fashionably full of nuts, brown sugar and wholemeal flour, but is mixed together with "Kraft Vitalite Sunflower Margarine". Anyone for seconds?

● A Labour Party employee leaving the Walworth Road HQ is reported to have asked how long finance officers would take to process a P45 form. The reply: "It's difficult as we're expecting a bit of a rush."

Euro-drama

Conspiracy theories were rampant in Strasbourg the other day when a television set light fell from the ceiling, narrowly missing the spot just vacated by Mario Di Bartolomei, an Italian liberal MEP (it was Barbara Castle's usual seat). The building was then evacuated for fear of sabotage, since the speaker was Patrick Hillery, the Irish President, talking about his country's role in the Community. The drama was exacerbated by Unionist MEP John D. Taylor's announcement that he would boycott Hillery's visit. This was apparently because he wanted no truck with Irish Republic officials — and because he was having difficulty convincing European colleagues that the president was not a woman.

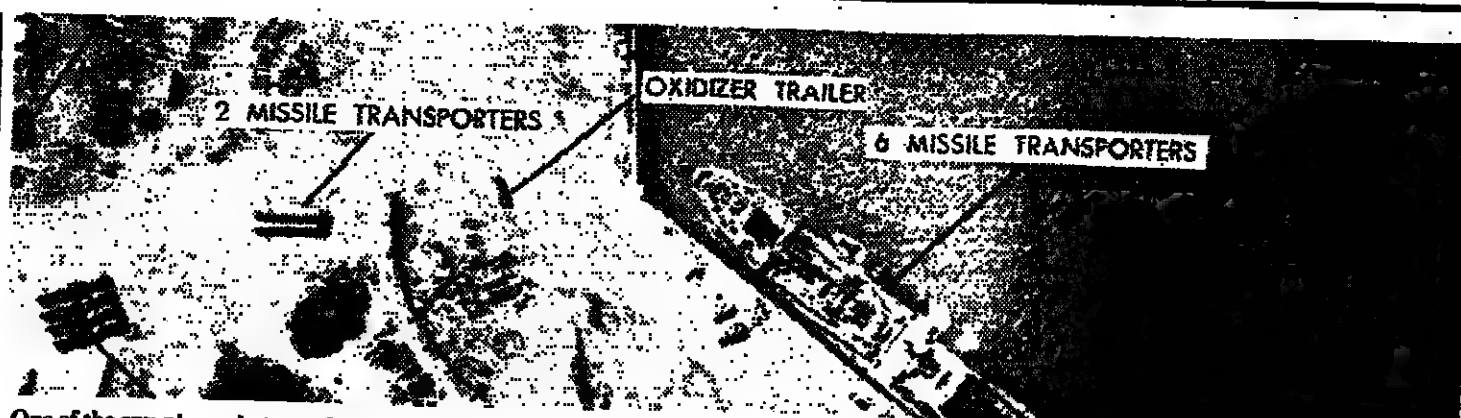


● That hideous innovation, the working breakfast, is even being employed in the cause of spiritual salvation. A National Prayer Breakfast is being held at the Commons next month, organized by the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship. For a minimum donation of £10 guests of Speaker Bernard Weatherill will be able to enjoy a cooked breakfast in the company of such early rising MPs as David Alton, Harry Greenwood, and Simon Hughes. All at an unearthly 7.30am.

Listening Bank

Clearly unabashed by the criticism they have taken over their 20-year-long occupation of the West Bank of the Jordan the Israelis are marking the occasion with a glossy 110-page booklet trumpeting their achievements. It claims the one million plus indigenous Palestinians have never had it so good; enjoying better health, more refrigerators and better roads than ever before. In a gushing introduction to the pamphlet Shmuel Goren, co-ordinator of government operations, thanks staff for their work, adding disingenuously: "I am sure the population of the area joins me in thanking them." Faisal Awaida, PLO representative in London, who is preparing his own booklet about life under two decades of Israeli occupation, thinks otherwise. "They'll be claiming next they've made the desert bloom."

PHS



One of the spy-plane photographs that confirmed US suspicions and started a bout of brinkmanship which brought the superpowers close to war

The Krushchev gambit

Hugh Thomas, the historian, seeks 25 years on to answer some of the unresolved questions of the Cuban missile crisis. Did President Kennedy betray more weakness than strength? Was a good chance thrown away to dethrone Fidel Castro? Had the US a more appropriate response?



an intertemperate article by Clare Booth Luce in *Life*. But the Kennedy administration had no intention of invading Cuba. It planned to overthrow Castro. But, exactly like President Eisenhower, it preferred clandestine operations by the CIA to anything involving "brass hats".

Further, the undertaking not to invade, though it has been observed by the US, could never have seemed a legal instrument for Castro refused the condition of a UN inspection which his Soviet sponsors had accepted. Thereafter the US continued its clandestine efforts against Castro. These did not work. But few felt invasion to be an alternative. If Kennedy had known that Castro's troops in the late 1980s would be found in Ethiopia, Angola and Central America, he might have taken a different view. But in 1962 he was dealing with an acute short-term problem which might have led to a catastrophe.

The possibility of a catastrophe is questioned by those who argue that, because of his substantial military advantage, Kennedy need not have made any concessions to secure Soviet withdrawal. But Khrushchev was a leader who took chances and risks and whose prestige was involved. He had formed an unfavourable picture of Kennedy (who had seemed Hamlet-like) when he met him in Vienna in 1961.

Cuban exiles and others argue that the missile crisis offered an opportunity for the removal of the then three-year-old Castro regime. That argument neglects the state of affairs in Washington, where a group of democratic politicians and officials wanted above all to limit the crisis, not expand it, facing as they were a communist regime led by a man who for all his gifts was both a serious Marxist-Leninist and mercurial.

The consequence of this crisis seems to have been a Soviet decision never to be in such a position of inferiority again vis-à-vis the US. Hence the drive for nuclear parity carried out by Khrushchev and Brezhnev in the later 1960s and the relative tranquillity in US-Soviet relations until that had been achieved.

In this "Cuban" crisis, the Cubans played no part. Castro had told people that he took the initiative to ask for Soviet missiles. But it is obvious from Soviet sources (as indeed from Cuban ones, including Castro himself in other moods) that the idea was Soviet-inspired. The Soviet military command knew that they had a commitment to defend a new friend in the Caribbean. So they did what they could to benefit from this unexpected and not entirely welcome responsibility.

We know from Carlos Franqui's *Family Portrait with Fidel* that Castro pressed a button on a SAM missile to bring down a US reconnaissance aircraft over Cuba at the height of the crisis but, apart from that bad-tempered act, his kicking of a mirror on hearing that Khrushchev had agreed to withdraw the missiles, and his inopportune behaviour when Anastas Mikoyan came to Havana to arrange for the withdrawal of the bombers, he merely had to wait, capacity for survival then as now is his most remarkable attribute.

Lord Thomas's books include *Cuba or the Pursuit of Freedom* (1971), and *Armed Truce* (1986), on the origins of the Cold War.

John Spencer on the laws behind the charges in the Guinness affair

When is a company director guilty of theft?

The charges Ernest Saunders and Gerald Ronson are now facing in the Guinness affair include some of theft. This has caused wonderment in the City. What is alleged to have happened is that Saunders paid money from his company, Guinness, to Heron, Ronson's company, to enable Heron to buy Guinness shares in bulk and so affect their market price.

Theft, people are saying, is what a shoplifter does with Guinness products in the supermarket. Has the Director of Public Prosecutions gone off his head? Far from it. He has been reading the Theft Act 1968, Section 1 (1) of which says:

"A person is guilty of theft if he dishonestly appropriates property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it; and 'theft' and 'steal' shall be construed accordingly."

This covers not only "lifting" goods from shops and pockets, but unauthorized dealings with property one is entitled to deal with in authorized ways.

It covers the dishonest shop-assistant who improperly sells goods to a friend at an undervalue, for example, and it also covers the purchase by the friend if he or she is the plot. Directors who pay company money for unauthorized purposes could find themselves in essentially the same position. (The prosecution, of course, must prove the transaction was unauthorized.)

Company directors, like General de Gaulle, are inclined to view the organization they direct as manifestations of themselves. Company property, however, does not belong to the directors but to the company itself.

Theft requires an intention permanently to deprive. Those who appropriate money often say they thought the money would eventually get his money back. But where money is concerned the law takes a narrow view. Someone who takes money counts as intending permanently to deprive if he does not mean the owner to



Ronson: a charge that surprised

get back the self-same notes. If he intends to replace them eventually with an equivalent, he still intends permanently to deprive. Nor does it matter whether the defendant intended to make a gain himself, because Section 1 (2) of the Theft Act expressly says this is immaterial.

For the prosecution, "dishonestly" does pose more of a problem. Dishonesty is only partly defined in the Theft Act, and the courts have made up the rest of the definition. The contents of dishonesty have changed over the years.

At first the courts said the defendant is honest if the jury think what he did was proper by their standards. Then they changed their mind and said the defendant is honest if he thought what he did was proper by his standards — so taking the rules not from the Man on the Clapham Omnibus but from the man accused of stealing it.

In 1982 the courts retreated from this remarkable laxity. They now say that behaviour is honest (a) if the jury thinks it was acceptable by the standards of decent and reasonable people, or failing that, (b) if the defendant genuinely believed it was acceptable by the standards of decent and reasonable people.

This of course is what many a defendant devoutly swears he thought. And it is then up to 12 good men and true to decide if they believe him.

Many offences cover broader ground than one would expect. Sometimes it is wise, sometimes it is unwise to prosecute for behaviour which lies at the fringe of the definition of an offence.

The author is a lecturer in criminal law at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

Michael Mavor

Baker's support for the strong

Pupils in schools throughout Britain are now working to a syllabus which touches more closely on their daily lives than the lessons of their predecessors. They enjoy the course work and practical approach; they and their teachers can display considerable initiative; and while the new syllabuses can elicit a sparkle in the below average pupil, there is nothing to stop teachers taking really bright boys and girls well beyond these stages.

This new enthusiasm in the classrooms of both Scotland and England is largely due to the introduction of more sensible and accessible courses in the form of Standard Grade and GCSE.

But at exactly the time when teachers needed every ounce of available energy to prepare for these new courses, the government did too much to divert the teachers' dedication into rash absence. Nobody can possibly approve of strikes and children being used as political weapons, but the government would not have paid the teaching profession anything approaching their present awards without them.

The main point was missed at the outset: the teaching profession, which is a most exciting and challenging one, demands people who are well trained, highly motivated, rigorously assessed and generously paid.

Having completely missed the chance to tell good teachers with some sincerity that they mattered and to be much tougher on bad ones, the government is now noddle-headed enough to imagine that by imposing a rigid national curriculum and nationwide tests at 7, 11 and 14, some sort of competence can be statistically devised. I am glad that Dr Margaret Brown, commissioned by the Department of Education and Science to study the feasibility of such tests, is going to recommend them to oblivion.

Nobody is a stronger supporter of independence than I; to be able to appoint staff, establish and manage budgets, encourage different projects and enterprises and make and live by one's own decisions is what good work is all about and I can fully understand the frustration of heads who are prevented from doing this. Really to get to the heart of this country's education, however, demands a removal of these frustrations, rather than an exit sign for the swift and the strong.

It may seem a paradox that independent schools offer choice, but it is a sensible choice in that there is a genuine variety of schools (educating, at their own expense, only 6 per cent of the country's children) which can co-

exist and which are very good in their own way; pupils will find a different balance of emphasis at Chetham's School of Music, Leeds Grammar School, Worcester College for the Blind, Ampleforth and Ardreck pre-prep. Any system must tolerate some independence.

Kenneth Baker's proposals for grant-maintained schools, however, offer opportunity, choice and excitement only to those who already have it and will weaken the main body of the maintained system, which is the area that really matters.

As far as parental involvement is concerned, it is a fact that in many schools, including my own, parents need to be involved only to a certain degree. Of course they have inalienable rights and expectations — but the only thing that will sustain a fine school or transform an ailing school is an effervescent teaching staff and a wise head. Parental involvement should follow on from that, rather than preceding it.

Finally, the practical problems facing the chief education officers as they try to deal with shifting populations, scarce resources and stubborn buildings seem hardly to have been considered.

City Technology Colleges are also of doubtful value, for if they are implemented, maintained schools will win from another wound. At just the time when design deserves every emphasis it can get, these schools will lose many of their most gifted pupils — and staff — in this area. There may not be any teachers of maths, physics or modern languages either, so they will have to concentrate on GCSE bakery.

Education means the far-reaching leading out of everyone, not the quick exodus of a few. We don't need a national curriculum, national tests, grant-maintained schools or City Technology Colleges. We now have an almost decent curriculum up to 16-plus and the challenging chance to broaden sixth-form work — a prospect that is welcomed by most vice-chancellors and industrialists. Many more sixth-formers should then go on to university, possibly to do only an ordinary degree.

Rigorous selection and training of teachers, an independent pay review body to guarantee some "well done" when things are well done, sensible appraisal, a condemnation of strikes, and a national staff training college to inspire people to find more in themselves, would all help to remind people what fun it can be and how important it is to teach well.

The author is headmaster of Gordonstoun School.

however . . . Henry Stanhope

A cowpoke gets the call

They rode into his valley in the fall of '87. The big black sedan swept into the farmyard in a swirl of dust, scattering chickens and narrowly missing a snub-nosed boy with freckles who ran out at the sound of its engine. The two men who emerged wore dark city suits, slightly crumpled from their journey, and each carried a black calf attaché case.

"Hey you, where do I find Ole Jed?" called one of them.

The boy, squinting in the Arizona sun, pointed towards the tin-roofed shack at the far end of the yard, then sprinted towards it ahead of them, to warn the old man of their coming. The visitors picked their way carefully after him, then stood for several seconds in the doorway, framed against the light, accustomed their eyes to the gloom.

"You Ole Jed?" asked one of them.

The old man, gently creaking on his rocking chair, raised a weatherbeaten hand to sandpaper his unshaven jaw, and spat through the broken window with the accuracy of a striking cobra.

"Mebbe," he wheezed through toothless gums, pushing the tattered stetson off his brow. "And then, mebbe not. What's it to you, stranger?"

"We've got some exciting news for you Jed," said the leader of the two men solemnly, inspecting the top of an oil drum before taking the liberty of sitting down. "The thing is . . ." he began, then looked helplessly up at his companion. "You tell him Ed."

The other man cleared his throat. "Well, the thing is Mr. er, Jed," he said. "Aw shucks, the thing is you've been selected by our IBM at Democratic Party headquarters to stand for President of the United States." He smiled encouragingly into the shadows. "Whaddya think o' that? Must make ya feel pretty proud, huh?"

Ole Jed dragged a cracked clay pipe from his patched dungarees and stuffed it with black tobacco. "Mebbe it do young fella," he said after lighting it and puffing a cloud of acrid smoke towards the ceiling.

"And then agin, mebbe it don't," he said. "Well, that sounds to me like a real president talking," said the first man enthusiastically, slapping his knee. "You see, Jed, the computer's shown you to be the most suitable candidate left now in the USA. I take it," he whispered anxiously, peering into the dark recesses of the room, "you have no extra-marital sex?"

The old man surveyed him impassively for several seconds.

"Nope," he said at length. "Got a drop of Jack Daniels though, I figger."

"Er, no. No thank you, that sounds real swell, but . . . I can also assume, can I, that you've never plagiarized Neil Kinnock?"

The old man narrowed his faded blue eyes. "Any more loose talk like that round here mister, and I'll set the dogs on ya. I'm a God-fearin' man," he snapped.

"That's . . . that's swell, Jed," said the other man earnestly. "He who is a-fear'd of God need fear no other man . . . except those bums on *The Washington Post* that is . . . and the *Miami Herald*."

He coughed and glanced doubtfully at the pipe. "We, er, might have to do something about your smokin', Jed. In Washington these days, you know, those goddamned women anti-pollutionists . . . And we'd need to do a rain-check on the hooch . . ."

He started to tick off points on a questionnaire. "No little fits about your high school grades, eh? Heh, heh, heh . . . Good . . . heh, heh. Strong believer in equal opportunities . . . gay rights . . . positive discrimination . . . Perhaps on second thoughts we'd better take those as read . . ."

"You sound like the real American dream, Jed. No little skeletons in the cupboard . . . ? Good . . . good . . . Now we just need to smarten you up a bit and get you to Washington DC to meet the party chiefs, huh?"

"What's that mister?" The old cowhand jerked forward in his chair, narrowing his gaze, and his hand dropped towards the holster slung low on his hips. "I ain't agoin' to that doggone place, skeet-offs or no skeet-offs. Now you git off ma land afore I git real angry."

The two men leaped to their feet and began the retreat to their car, breaking into a sprint as the first shot whistled low over their heads.

"Goddamn! Ed, this is fantastic," panted the leader. "A real live pistol-packing cowboy . . . Just think of him in the primaries . . ."

He clambered into the driving seat and fastened the safety straps as a .45 bullet smacked into the hood. "Yahoo! Wait till the boys Reagan could beat this ing to think the computer'd gotten it wrong agin . . ."

He lowered the window and leaned out as the old man paused to reload. "Take care, Jed," he yelled. "We'll be in touch agin. Have a nice day . . ."

Michael Vassar
Baker's support
for the strong



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEVANTINE ODYSSEY

Mr George Shultz arrives in Israel today for talks which mark the beginning of yet another chapter in the Middle East peace process. Next week he will be in London to meet (among others) King Hussein—who will host an Arab summit next month in Amman. Meanwhile, Sir Geoffrey Howe will fly to the Middle East later this month, for his own round of political consultations.

If the US Secretary of State needed reminding of the difficulties, he need only have read *The Times* two days ago. This carried an indirect appeal to Mrs Thatcher from the Prime Minister of Israel for Britain to change the direction of its policy. British policy is, however, broadly in line with that of his own foreign minister. With the Jerusalem coalition split so neatly, progress will be hard indeed.

During the last 12 months or so, Britain's role as a political catalyst in the Middle East has been growing. Keen Prime Ministerial interest, plus the Government's close relationship with Israel, the United States and Jordan, has placed Whitehall in the centre of the region's eternal triangles of distrust.

Britain's support for an international peace conference is, therefore, of considerable significance because of its growing diplomatic role in the region. The idea is also endorsed by Jordan (among others) and by Mr Shimon Peres, Israel's foreign minister. One does not have to think that such an international conference is the ideal way forward in order to know that it is the only way open at present. For that reason the support is deserved.

Who will be trying to persuade whom during the next few weeks of coming and going? The Americans are assumed to be the only people who could persuade Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's prime minister, to accept the idea of an international conference. But as the Americans themselves are less than enthusiastic, they themselves will need persuading by Britain and Jordan—not to mention Mr Peres.

One reason why there is still some optimism is that the Soviet Union is now trying to be constructive. It has even been making conciliatory gestures towards Israel—with which it broke off relations in 1967. There is always the danger that Moscow could try to use a conference for its own ends once it opened. But at this stage it is, at least, making the right noises.

Another reason for optimism is what looks like a more constructive approach among the Arabs. The Jordanians and the Syrians are enjoying a rapprochement and President Assad has signalled that Syria will attend next month's Arab summit in Amman. At the same time, President Assad has tried to shed his image as a friend of extremist Arabs. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is—for the moment—putting on one of the more peaceful of its many faces.

Those Israelis who see the emergence of any kind of Palestinian homeland as a threat to their own security deserve sympathy. The history of Arab hostility has not been such as to inspire much confidence in Jerusalem. But the principle of exchanging land for peace is one with which all Israelis must some day come to terms. Recognition of Israel's right to exist is a prerequisite of any agreement. Given that recognition, however, Israel should use her bargaining power to secure the peace her people deserve and need.

Perhaps the chief reason for optimism, however, is the fact that Mr Shultz is setting off on his travels at all. The American Secretary of State made it clear last time that he would not embark on another round of Middle East discussions unless and until there was something new to say. The fact that he is once more in the Levant, is being interpreted as a sign that this is now the case.

Ultimately, the answer to the Middle East question lies in the Middle East itself. No peace conference can be more than a means to an end—and the same must be said for outside intervention and diplomacy. Whatever new ideas Mr Shultz may be taking to Jerusalem, it is the ideas that Jerusalem has for him which will determine whether war or peace will prevail.

SHOTGUN LAW

In the wake of another multiple killing in which firearms were employed, the Home Secretary is coming under pressure to tighten the law further than he has already announced following the Hungerford shootings. He is unlikely to entertain rash, unworkable measures. Unlike some of his critics, he will see that one misused shotgun does not mean that possession of all shotguns should become a criminal offence. He should, however, carefully review the law on shotgun control.

The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers had been discussing a tighter law on firearms before Hungerford. That dreadful affair moved the issues up the agenda of public concern, and drew attention to aspects which might otherwise have been given insufficient weight.

The pre-Hungerford debate had been largely about firearms used by professional or habitual criminals, and how to make them less available, and their use less attractive, to such persons. The newer focus of public attention is on the availability of firearms to more ordinary citizens—not those who plan armed robberies or burglaries, but those who, through mental disturbance, or sudden evil intent, might snap and wreak havoc with whatever is familiar and near to hand.

It is clear that changes in the nature and efficiency of firearms, and the appearance in Britain of a disturbing sub-culture in which guns play a prominent part, has made existing regulations out of date. Measures which have been proposed so far concern mainly the transfer to the "prohibited" category, pre-

viously reserved for such weapons as machine guns, of those semi-automatic firearms which have enhanced performance or rate of fire. These are to be put in the strictest category of control, virtually banned except for authorized dealers.

In addition, pump action shotguns—capable of a more rapid rate of fire—are to be brought into the second category, hitherto reserved for rifles, pistols and revolvers. The main difference between that and the third category, reserved for ordinary shotguns, is in the level of police supervision and discretion.

The Home Office is still considering whether further control of standard shotguns is required. Should it, for instance, agree to the plea of the chief police officers that those issued with licences for shotguns be required to undertake to keep their weapons securely, and risk the loss of their licence if they fail to do so?

Should the Home Secretary go further even than this? There is undoubtedly a case for closer police supervision of the issuing of licences and, in particular, their reissuing after breach of the regulations. One certificate per weapon should be required. Weapons should have to be kept under conditions so secure as to exclude most householders from keeping them.

Sporting gun users might then start to look to their clubs and ranges to provide the degree of security necessary. Any shotgun seen outside such a club might then attract more suspicion than it does now. The level of public concern is such that the question for the Home Secretary on these points is no longer why, but why not.

VOICE OF THE THEATRE

Things are looking up. Instead of the familiar and melancholy story of London theatres being closed, an old and loved one, the long-empty Playhouse has been beautifully restored, and is to come back to life in a few weeks time. The Old Vic, even more warmly loved, was saved from extinction by Mr Ed Mirvish: after an uncertain start, it has now acquired as director Mr Jonathan Miller, who has planned an exciting and varied repertoire.

At the Royal Opera House, where the blows of fortune have recently been raining down most cruelly, Mr Bernard Haitink, in his first new production since he took over as Musical Director, has launched the finest *Marriage of Figaro* to be seen there, or anywhere else for that matter, for many years. Even the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company have (for the moment, at any rate) ceased to announce that they are going to close down for ever because of meanness by the Government.

And after the long battle to get a proper Theatre Museum in the nation's capital, followed by the battle over where it should be, it has opened, with a startlingly rich and lavishly displayed permanent collection, and an admirable programme of special exhibitions. From now until next August, just such an exhibition is to be seen there, devoted to the long—and happily, unfinished—career of Sir John Gielgud.

For half a century, four English players set standards for acting, speaking and professionalism that made the theatre of this country one of the artistic glories of the world. A little later than Sybil Thorne's generation, a little earlier than Alec Guinness's, Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson, Peggy Ashcroft and John Gielgud, made up a quartet of theatrical genius that has never been surpassed. Each brought a special quality into the theatre; Olivier had his blazing trumpet notes, Richardson his infinite cunning, Ashcroft her almost incredible versatility, and Gielgud the most beautiful, and most effectively used, theatrical voice this century has known.

At the Theatre Museum exhibition, that voice can be heard as the visitor wanders

through the galleries, speaking some of his most memorable roles, from Shakespeare to Wilde. The walls are adorned with the playbills, caricatures, photographs, costumes, stage-designs and other memorabilia of his career; inevitably, there is room for only a tiny selection of his roles, which are to be counted in hundreds. Nor have they been confined to the stage; he has contributed massively to the cinema and television, and he has had a parallel career, of much distinction, as a director.

Yet it is that voice, and what he has done with it, that defines him. It is exquisite, in the original senses—meaning of great beauty and keenly felt; it is thrilling; its delicate but ever-present vibrato keeps it warm and full of feeling; and a sharp, penetrating, wise and well-read intelligence (which Sir John is in the habit of gently and implausibly denying) fixes it, and what is said in it, for ever in the memory. Theatre-goers who have followed the careers of those four great players will remember always their performances; but in Gielgud's case, they also remember, in remarkable profusion, single lines, even single phrases.

Once heard, never forgotten. From his Clarence in the Olivier film of *Richard the Third*: "What scourge for perjury?" From his Benedict in *Much Ado About Nothing*: "I do love nothing in the world so well as you." From *The Winter's Tale*: "Too warm, too warm." And from the last of his four Hamlets, in 1944: "Angels and ministers of grace defend us!"

But all those who have followed Gielgud's acting will have their own favourites. And what is more, they will shortly have the opportunity to add to their collection. For—at the age of 83—he is about to return to the stage, after a decade in which he has acted only on the screen, in a new play. The exhibition at the Theatre Museum right royally salutes his work; and so does anyone who has ever experienced his theatrical magic, a magic with which he has for so long immeasurably enriched the English-speaking world.

Dark future for non-core subjects

From Dr P. V. Jones

Sir, Mr Baker continues to insist (report, October 9) that, since his core-curriculum proposals offer the possibility of 20 per cent of the timetable for non-core subjects, such subjects can survive. But on a 40-period week, less one for compulsory RE, the available time for non-core subjects comes to seven periods. And that is a maximum.

Schools which offer a 90 per cent core curriculum will have three periods for non-core subjects. For that range of time allowance subjects such as a second foreign language, a third science, Latin, home economics, economics, classical studies, social studies (to mention but seven, all common in State schools) will have to battle it out.

But mark the bind. First, schools will be legally obliged to teach all 10 core subjects to everyone all the way up to the fifth form—French for everyone, technology for everyone, geography for everyone (and so on). Since no new resources are to be given, where will they find the teachers and time to implement this massive new demand? Clearly, from non-obligatory subjects. Whence else?

Second, subjects already in the core by law will, inevitably, have a powerful advantage over the non-core subjects, because it will cost schools little to expand them to fill the whole timetable. But it will cost them much more to keep on non-obligatory minority subjects with a risible time allowance.

In other words, given the pressure on schools' resources and the imposition of a legally obligatory core occupying such a large proportion of the curriculum, the inevitable result will be that, in time, legislated subjects will oust all others.

When that happens—for

schools with a 90 per cent it will happen almost at once—we will have a clone curriculum. When pupils are developing their own preferences, interests and skills, the curriculum will not be able to respond to them. And what will be the effect on the vision and aspirations of those going to A levels?

The Conservatives talk much about "freedom". There will be none of that if Mr Baker's proposals go through without modification. As for parents who look forward to discussing their child's choice of subjects with them, "what choice?" will come back the baffled response.

Yours etc,
PETER V. JONES,
The University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Department of Classics,
The University,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

From Mr J. B. Sheddin
Sir, In today's *Times* (October 12) you report the following paragraph from views on the Government's proposed national school curriculum expressed by the London Chamber of Commerce, who are particularly concerned with children brought up in homes where English is probably never used:

To ensure that these children have access to the national curriculum will require special attention in terms of providing the necessary resources to ensure that they are given a knowledge and understanding of the English language sufficient to gain the benefits from the other subjects which are to be taught under the national curriculum.

Perhaps there are other categories in need of special attention for the teaching of English? Yours faithfully,
J. B. SHEDDIN,
6 Barnfield Close,
Crockenhill,
Swanley, Kent.

Comp in Fiji

From Professor David Murray

Sir, For the first time since the 1946 census, indigenous Fijians will shortly outnumber those of Indian origin, as indicated in Professor Clegg's letter (October 10). In the 1966 census, which guided the provisions in the independence Constitution, Fijians constituted 42 per cent and Indians 51 per cent of the population.

The change in the balance of the population was not what was assumed when the independence Constitution was adopted. At that time it was assumed that unusual safeguards were required for the Fijians. There were five particular forms of these.

First, the legislature was constituted with two Houses and in the Senate—which had significant delaying powers—Fijians were in effect guaranteed a majority.

Second, and more important, the laws safeguarding the whole machinery of separate administration of Fijians, their control over land and the administration of Fijian development funds, for instance, were entrenched in the Constitution and no change could be made except with the agreement of six of the eight Council of Fijian Chiefs' representatives sitting in the Senate.

Third, the House of Representatives was to be elected, using

a complex form of communal representation which was almost guaranteed to ensure a Fijian majority unless the Fijian vote split—as it did in 1977 and did again this year.

In addition to these three provisions, the Constitution provided as a fundamental right that the individual should be protected from discrimination on the ground of race, but this did not apply to existing law—thus allowing existing discriminatory law in favour of Fijians.

Finally, the Constitution provided for fair treatment of each community in recruiting to the public service, but this did not extend to the army or to the police mobile reserve.

Under the independence Constitution the Fijians were already assigned a privileged position. The assumptions then made about the future balance of the population were taken to justify these safeguards.

Given these constitutional safeguards and present population growth, moves further to limit the rights of Fijian citizens of Indian origin cannot convincingly be justified by the minority situation of the Fijians.

Yours sincerely,
D. MURRAY,
125 Church Green Road,
Bletchley,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire,
October 13.

Privatized power

From the Secretary of the Central Electricity Generating Board

Sir, Mr Kimber (September 30) claims that, with one or two exceptions, the Central Electricity Generating Board has done nothing to support combined heat and power (CHP) schemes. Clearly he does not know the true position.

As the Electricity Council submitted to the Select Committee on Energy last year showed, the Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) has assisted in appraising 86 schemes since the Energy Act of 1983. As part of this assistance, the CEGB last year spent £700,000 and contributed 17 man-years.

In the last four years, for example, the board, with Eastern Electricity, has spent nearly £400,000 in investigating CHP at South Dene, near Great Yarmouth. The CEGB is a member of Leicester Energy Ltd, working up a commercial CHP scheme where the board has offered to transfer its Leicester plant to the project as an equity investment. On Tyne-side it is offering practical support for further studies of a CHP scheme there.

In spite of all this work, CHP has not so far taken off. It is approved by the board on a purely commercial basis, and the reason why it has not proved attractive to developers is that it has not been competitive with other fuels, especially gas.

In other words, CHP has not yet proved itself more efficient in its use of all resources than its competitors. It may however gradually become more competitive, especially if natural gas becomes more expensive. We are therefore

continuing to put considerable effort into the study of possible schemes.

Finally, Mr Kimber considers that privatizing the ESI will provide a spur for CHP. The future structure of the ESI is of course a matter for the Government, but whatever the structure, its managers will have to pay regard to the economic realities of CHP.

Yours sincerely,
G. H. HADLEY, Secretary,
Central Electricity Generating Board,
Sudbury House,
15 Newgate Street, EC1,
October 9.

From Mr I. W. H. Jarvis
Sir, In the CHP project which we are currently developing at Leicester we find that the ESI, in the form of the East Midlands and Central generating boards, have been most supportive and very co-operative. There are, I believe, two underlying factors which have led to this attitude.

First, these two bodies are equal partners in the company with the eight other sponsors who come from both the public and private sectors and there is an openness to all our deliberations.

Second, there has always been a sense of commercial realism about the project, which we hope will be justified shortly by its implementation.

It is my considered opinion that if approached in an attitude of co-operation, rather than conflict, many others would find the ESI true supporters of CHP. Yours faithfully,
IAN JARVIS (General Manager),
Leicester Energy Limited,
PO Box 227, Leicester,
October 7.

It is also concerned with moral issues and values.

The economic and social importance of a subject is rooted in the realities of everyday life and the interrelationships between sectors of knowledge, not least through application, should not be left to the whims and prejudices of parental choice. Yours faithfully,
EVELEEN S. THORNE (Head,
Department of Home Economics),
Roehampton Institute,
Roehampton Lane, SW15.

Rift in the construction industry

From Mr Peter Cox

Sir, The construction industry covers a great variety of work, from hydroelectric power stations to housing. With the ever-increasing complexity of the industry it is therefore understandable that members have organised themselves into a number of separate professional institutions and contracting organisations.

This has left the civil engineering bodies isolated from the building elements of the industry. The rift is becoming wider: the Institution of Civil Engineers is setting up its own building group, whose guidance will inevitably clash with that produced by the building institutions.

If the industry consisted of two very distinct groups with little common ground all would be well. However, many consulting and

contracting firms work in both sides of the industry and many construction contracts include both civil engineering and building. Many engineers are members of both the Institution of Civil Engineers and one or more of the building institutions, particularly the Institution of Structural Engineers.

The correct balance between conformity and flexibility to achieve maximum efficiency for the whole industry cannot be dictated by any one part. If the industry is divided its efficiency will suffer.

There is considerable expertise in the UK construction industry, which has gained much overseas work. It should be trying to increase its efficiency in order to win further orders and not waste its effort by fighting itself.

Members of both sides of the industry should ask the leaders of the institutions and contracting organisations not to take any action that might antagonise other bodies and to try to defuse the situation. They may like to consider the formation of a Construction Industry Council to promote increased co-operation in the future.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. COX,
M. A. Richards & Partners
(Consulting Engineers),
Suite 3, 51A George Street,
Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey,
October 12.

ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 16 1987

The risks incidental to the production of atomic power have been much in the news in the past few years. They were not then treated with much less and were

INQUIRY ORDERED AT WINDSCALE

SIR W. PENNEY TO BE CHAIRMAN

From Our Political Correspondent

An independent, but secret inquiry has been ordered into the incident at the Windscale atomic plant, in Cumberland, where a nuclear reactor became overheated on October 10. It has been urgently called for by the Atomic Energy Authority, and a report direct to the authority is expected in a week or 10 days.

This announcement followed a meeting of the Cabinet at 10, Downing Street, yesterday. The Prime Minister himself is ultimately responsible for atomic developments, and other Ministers have become involved in the problems of water and milk supplies.

It is understood the Government have been authoritatively assured that a recurrence of the incident is not possible at Calder Hall or any other atomic power stations being built for the electricity authority.

SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

Forming the committee of inquiry will be Sir William Penney, F.R.S. (chairman), the member of the Atomic Energy Authority responsible for weapons research and development; Dr B. F. J. Schonland, F.R.S., deputy director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell; Professor J. M. Kay, Professor of Engineering (Nuclear), Imperial College of Science; and Professor Jack Diamond, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Manchester University. The inquiry cannot take place in public because of security precautions.

The authority stated yesterday afternoon that the committee will investigate the cause of the Windscale incident, and will begin their task tomorrow. They add: "As Windscale is a defence plant, the committee will not meet in public. For the same reason the report of the committee will not be published. The fullest statement of its findings consistent with security will, however, be made public."

Manchester's anxieties about the possible contamination of its water supplies found expression during the day in a telegram from Mr. Frank Allam, Labour M.P. for East Salford, to Lord Mills, Minister of Power. He received a categorical answer that there was no danger.

MILK RESTRICTIONS

In another statement the authority gave some explanation of the extension of the "milk line" around Windscale from an area of 14 square miles to an area of 200 square miles. Certain Press reports, they stated, had tended to give the impression that this extension arose from findings of strontium 90 in the area. "It must be emphasized that the extended control is based entirely on the levels of radio iodine," the statement said. "Checks for strontium 90 have been made by the authority and the highest levels reported are still only between one-fifth and one-tenth of that which would be safe for lifetime consumption."

They add that "the strontium situation is still being watched." Milk from the affected area was poured down a drain at the Milk Marketing Board depot at Egremont, Cumberland, yesterday. The drain carried it direct to the sea.

FRIDAY PAGE

Vogue for the gloss of old...

One of my great weaknesses is up-market, glossy, women's magazines. I like their school-perfect tone as they cheer us into old-age with the thought that we can all enjoy stylish senility if we just keep a careful eye on choosing the right accessories, and not get stuck in old ideas. "The waist is no longer at its place," lectured *Vogue* last July, "but new up high or down low".

This season, two of the glossies have produced books as well: fashion writer Nicholas Drake has edited *The Fifties in Vogue*, and Nicholas Coleridge and Stephen Quinn, editor and publisher respectively of *Harpers & Queen*, have produced *The Sixties in Queen*. Why do these magazines have such appeal?

Marxist sociologists may come up with all sorts of grim ideas, citing avarice, greed and so on, but it seems to me that there is a much simpler reason. As it happens, existentialism never had much appeal for me, but its philosophers did articulate a fundamental truth: that we live in the here-and-now. What has been and will be is important, but in a limited sense; nothing is as important as what is. These publications clue us in on current values. They certainly pretend to no depth, but they are a survival aid. They are the current noises of the forest.

"Are you *au fait* with the Boule Brothel Look?" asked *Harpers & Queen* in its September cover article, titled "Good Taste / Bad Taste". "Does the name George Bullock trip lightly off your tongue? Do you enthuse over faded paisley shawls ('Norwich are best') with a couple of holes in them? If not, then in the late-Eighties Zeitgeist terms, you are going nowhere - fast." *Zeitgeist*. Going nowhere fast. The Boule Brothel look may start with Camilla in Chelsea, but it will dribble down to the high street in Kenton and then lawd help the home without its tattered paisley.

Our glossies brief us on the choices and behaviour likely to help us gravitate towards the centre of the circle rather than the fringes. Like our ancestors, we know that the creatures of the forest tend to take their toll from the fringes.

What is interesting, of course, is that



BARBARA AMIEL

ana Doré. On the other hand, some men like the aloof, fragile elegance of Audrey Hepburn or model Fiona Campbell-Walter. Has it ever been otherwise, one is tempted to ask? Why do I still consider bleaching my hair or sucking in my cheeks?

The *Vogue* world never touches on nasty realities, not the English *Vogue* anyway. The Fifties are an era of peace and prosperity and Formfit padded bras, which they certainly were of course - unless you happened to live in Hungary, say, or Korea, or somewhere awkward like that. Fortunately, while the American *Vogue* got a nasty attack of social relevance early on, and began running staunchly left-liberal articles on every conceivable subject, the Fifties in our *Vogue* remains the time of the Skylon, the Coronation - and the 1957 debut of the very last deb of all, Henrietta Marks, now the Marchioness of Tavistock.

What disappointed me in the book, though, was its concentration on *Vogue* as a cultural bible. There are lengthy chapters on art, theatre, music, gastronomy and "the big screen" - all the things we never bought *Vogue* for. But where is the marvelous, breathless prose describing fashion in the Fifties, that I still enjoy when I dig into my files of yellowed magazines? "We like the high spirits that orange gives to beaver brown," wrote *Vogue* in its February, 1954 issue. "We like its vigour with the experienced navy blue; we say 'go warily with black'; its density can be overbearing." Ah, what fearless copywriter thought of "overbearing" as an adjective to describe that tired old navy?

The *Sixties in Queen* is quite another



The *Sixties in Queen*: the Rolling Stones ("Five meteoric boys, average age 21"), with a model in a Mary Quant dress; they were listed as liking "women, science fiction, records, girls... and", photographed by Norman Parkinson in 1964

matter. This is the state of the art in the here-and-now glossy, and as such I defy you to put its book down without turning to the 1960 list of The 20 Most Eligible Men. What has happened, one wonders, to the Hon Dominic Elliot, whose opening gambit, we are told, was: "I'm learning to be a fashion model".

Coleridge tells me that *Queen* was the first magazine to come up with the idea of "lists". Lists of people who are in or out. Lists rating the good weekend, rating society or the habits of the British upper classes. Compulsively readable, these are the tom-toms in the jungle beating out the gossip of the day.

Articles based on lists are like those one-minute party games where you mustn't stop talking. Essentially, they are as much nonsense as truth, but it doesn't matter.

I remember an ex-editor of the American magazine *W* explaining to me that ivory jewellery was to be on their list. New York shops heard about this and filled their windows with displays of it. Unfortunately, there was a typist's error and ivory was transposed to the Out list. "My God, what shall we do?" moaned the editor. "Just say we changed our mind," said her superior at the magazine's editorial meeting, and from



The Fifties in *Vogue*: model Fiona Campbell-Walter, "as finely bred as a champion greyhound", photographed by Cecil Beaton in 1954

that issue on, ivory was decidedly Out.

And where did all the wonderful eyelined beauties of *Queen*, frozen in their petticoat dresses ("indisputably the greatest little dress for this winter's little evenings out") go?

I asked Betty Kenward, also known as Jennifer of the diary, about the five "Debs With A Difference" picked in 1962 as being "very different from what debts used to be". These young creatures are mostly interested in things outside the "season": in getting a job and making a contribution. Mrs Kenward was not sure, although she left word that she thought they were happily married. Well, they are, and all to gentlemanly with at least four names and quite often addresses in Scotland or houses that are not on a street.

We think we are all so different, each generation, each angry young man and gallery of rejects. Which is why it may be useful to hold up the collective mirror of society and see its reflection in these magazines. It is only a mirror-image of course. It is not an X-ray machine or chemical analysis. It tells us nothing about the deeper internal workings of the organism. When *Queen* went to the People's Republic of China in 1959 it saw only the starkly beautiful Cartier-Bresson photographs of the People's Militia, not pictures of the millions sent to re-education camps in the "anti-rightist campaign of 1957". But with a bit of common sense one can extrapolate from the images, and discern some essential truths about our time. And the hemlines we wore as well.

TALKBACK Not the fair sex

From Ronald Harman, Latham Road, Southport, Merseyside

Your serialization of Naim Attallah's *Women* ("Women talking", October 5-9) is a gross insult to ordinary women whose views are ignored in favour of a handful of female personalities.

Ordinary women do not have the wealth which relieves the stress of relationships, yet the rate of divorce of rich or successful women is higher than the norm. Why? Because they relate, or marry for the wrong reasons, namely looks, wealth or power.

If men were truly emancipated in the emotional world, that is, if women proposed and men accepted proposals, the divorce rates would be halved overnight. A simple truth pertains: while women remain poor judges of male virtues, divorce will be commonplace if men were allowed to be the judge of female virtues, relationships and marriage would be safeguarded.

From Mrs Jill Gordon, Maida Avenue, London W2

A lot of your readers must have cherished the notion up till now that, on average, women are the intellectual equals of men. If they think now that that was an illusion, shattered by the unbelievable banality of the comments collected by Mr Attallah, they might consider this: it was an unbelievably banal idea to make the collection in the first place - and that was the idea of a man.

From G Lumley, Kimberley Road, Chingford, London E4

Assuming that the new article of leftist dogma expounded by Miss Lipman is true ("All intelligent women hate Mrs Thatcher"), are we to deduce that she really worships the Prime Minister?

From Mrs E Rodgers, Fulbrook Road, Storrington, West Sussex

Margherita Laski announces: "Margaret Thatcher is felt by everyone now to be a dislikable woman".

At the Conservative conference, women are reported to have risen en masse to cheer Cecil Parkinson, who exploited his wife, mistress and daughter born outside marriage.

What can these attitudes tell us about feminism and women in general? They tell me that most women consider themselves inferior to men; they resent any woman who dares to place herself in a position of equality alongside them, and that they simply expect to be exploited by males and accept that as their natural place in life.

From Barbara M Pederson, Wimbleson Road, Manca, Cambridgeshire

To Lady Annabel Goldsmith, I would say that "the wives who set such store by fidelity" are not mad. On the contrary, we are totally sane, safe and secure in marriages which are blessed with solid values based on mutual love and respect, forsaking all others, till death us do part. I am married to someone who shares my views. That is why I am saying it.

From R J Martin, Hook Heath Road, Woking, Surrey

I was saddened to read Charlotte Rampling's reported remark that she had had three abortions before the age of 26. I was astonished to read in the following day's *Times* from the same lady: "I agree entirely with feminism. If it is equal opportunity. If you want to become the other sort of feminist, it means that biologically you are imbalanced. You don't have the basic normal urges to procreate, to want to protect and bring up your children..."

I am at a loss to understand the correlation between the destruction of three unborn children and the urge to procreate and protect those children. I am also at a loss to understand why you print such rubbish.

...and a woman to put Harrods back in vogue

The unerring good advice on style which has been so indispensable to the Princess of Wales is now to be used to add gloss to the Harrods image.

Today's announcement of the appointment of unofficial royal image-maker Anna Harvey as creative director of the store reveals more about the direction Harrods will be taking than any of the other senior changes made earlier this week. More interestingly, it reveals much about the complex social ambitions of the store's owner and executive chairman, Mohamed Al-Fayed.

The choice of Harvey, the fashion tycoon's team of the one element he was shrewd enough to see it lacked - reassuringly English good taste and the right connections to ease all those social and promotional events that an institution like Harrods regularly must host. With this paragon of elegance steering him Al-Fayed acquires, above all, establishment credibility.

Harvey, a fine-boned and slender 42-year-old invariably dressed with little make-up and with pared-down chic in

simple numbers by Calvin Klein or Alaïa, is a skilled organizer known not just for her style but for her ability to pull people together with charm. Her impeccable taste has been honed in the 18 years she has worked as a fashion editor with Condé Nast, first on *Brides* and then on *Vogue*. Responsibility for some of London's plushiest and most upmarket charity galas in recent years has been another showcase for her exquisite style, most notably her masterminding of the red and gold Birthday Ball at the Royal Albert Hall two years ago and other fashionable events in aid of Brighthelm, of which the Princess of Wales is patron.

Harvey's relationship with the Princess is a subject she always discreetly avoids and one that she says never even cropped up in her three meetings with Al-Fayed. They are good friends and lunch together occasionally, but the Princess "is entirely self-sufficient in planning her own wardrobe," Harvey insists. "I only step in when she has a special need."

In recent years Harrods has come dangerously close to being a tourist



Queen of the shop: Anna Harvey theme park; local Sloanes seldom brave the throngs, but the Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal Family are still known to shop there.

It was barely three weeks ago that Harvey was first summoned to talk to

Al-Fayed and discuss his driving obsession, Harrods, and her possible place in it. "It was as vague as that," she says.

"He recognized there was a gap in his team somewhere and he asked me what I could do about it. The brief he has given her is both broad and ambitious. 'He wants its image projected in the right way,' she says. 'I don't want to buy and I don't want to sell. Mohamed is delighted with what Clare Stubbs (director of Fashion) is doing with the fashion floor. She might occasionally like a second opinion, Condé Nast is the most marvellous training ground. It teaches you to seek out excellence. You must never make do with second best.'"

That long-time editor of *Vogue*, Beatrix Miller, has a high opinion of her protégée. "All this cross-fertilization of talent between fashion retailing and magazines is most interesting. Anna has unerring taste." Other *Vogue* staffers have recently been tempted into the commercial fashion world: Grace Coddington, senior fashion director, moved to New York as design director at Calvin Klein, and Liz Tilberis was on the

point of joining Ralph Lauren in New York when she was appointed editor.

Harrods used to employ a style figurehead, Laurie Newton-Sharpe, still an elegant beauty aged 80, set a high standard in entertaining and fashion image-making in the Sixties, and was succeeded by the no less formidable Mary Gunther. It is a role American retailers understand but they tend to combine it in someone with hard-nosed commercial skills, which Harvey is the first to admit she has yet to acquire.

Married to a barrister, Jonathan Harvey, her impeccably-run life is divided between her job, her private charity work and her three children, two sons aged 16 and 14 and a daughter of nine. Her new job, which she starts in December, will demand less travelling and allow her more time to spend with her family, but she does not underestimate the scale of her task. "It is such an exciting challenge. Having talked to Mohamed I had no doubts about the move. His exhilaration at owning Harrods is contagious."

Liz Smith

SATURDAY

Portfolio Gold

At least £20,000 to be won



Making tracks: Bernard Levin, spotted on the train, telling it take the train

Fine Rhine journey

In *The Times* tomorrow, Bernard Levin describes his trip down the fascinating river that carries with it the history of the civilization of Europe, travelling from the mountains of Switzerland to the edge of the North Sea

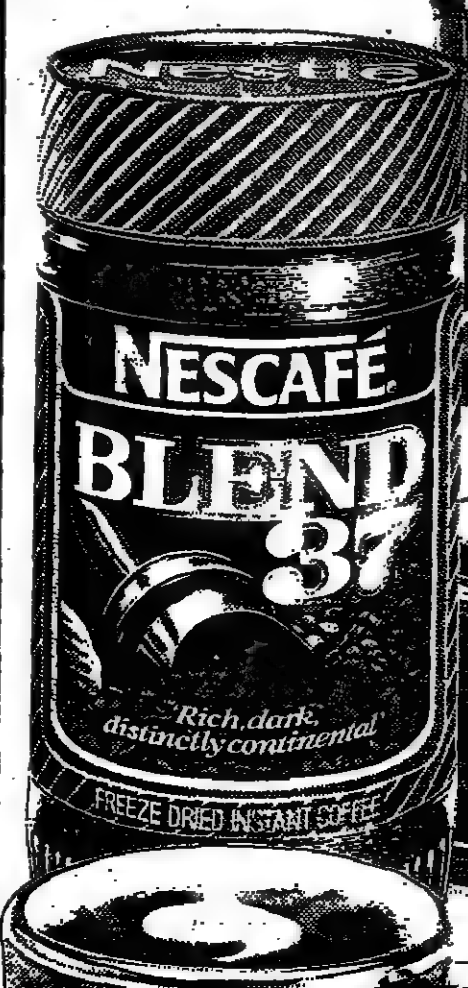
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31st DECEMBER 1987.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN.

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE
LONDON

★ **ALLO, ALLO:** Return of last year's stage version of the TV show. Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street W1 (01-839 5957). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, 10.20pm, Fri and Sat 8.40-11pm, mat Fri and Sat 5.30-7.50pm, £7.50-£14.

★ **BLUES IN THE NIGHT:** Return of hit blues show. Carol Woods, Debby Bishop, Maria Friedman sing their hearts out in a sleazy Chicago hotel. Piccadilly Theatre, Denman Street, W1 (01-437 4506). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs 8-10pm, Fri and Sat 8.30-10.30pm, and 9-11pm, £7.50-£14.50. (D)

★ **CONVERSATIONS ON A HOMEFRONT:** The excellent Druid Theatre Company from Galway on their international tour with Tom Murphy's sizzling bar play. Deodar Warehouse, 111 Euston Road, WC1N 3JF. Tube: Euston. Mon-Thurs 8-10.30pm, Fri and Sat 8.30-10.30pm, £7.50-£14.50. (D)

★ **DIARY OF A SOMEBODY:** The private life of Joe Orton: funny, clever, painful and rough. Boulevard Theatre, Walker Court, Brewer Street W1 (01-437 2861). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30-9.30pm, £2.50-£10.50.

★ **FOLLIES:** Sondheim's musical, in London at last, has Diana Rigg and Julia McKenzie leading a starry cast. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (01-379 5359). Tube: Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.10pm, mat Wed and Sat 3-5.30pm, £10-£22.

★ **HIGH SOCIETY:** The show of the first. Staged with extra Cole Porter. Good performances. Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria Street, SW1 (01-334 1371). Tube: Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.10pm, mat Wed and Sat 3-5.30pm, £7.50-£15.50. (D)

★ **THE HYPOCHONDRIAC:** Tom Courtenay heads strong cast in Moliere's classic comedy. Lyric Theatre, King Street W6 (01-741 2311). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat Wed 2.30pm and Sat 4pm, £5-£10.

★ **A LIFE OF THE MIND:** Fine acting team in new Sam Shepard play exploring family tensions in the mid West. Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square SW1 (01-830 1745). Tube: Sloane Square. Preview until Oct 19, 7.30pm. First night Oct 20, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat Oct 24 and Sat 3.30pm, £4-£12.

★ **SEPARATION:** David Suchet and Saskia Reeves in another two-hander play by Tom Stoppard, author of *Dog Day Afternoon*. New Theatre, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P (01-838 8665). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat 8-10.15pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £5-£7.

LONG RUNNERS: ★ *The Business of Men* by Caryl Churchill (01-229 3038). ★ *Cats* by Andrew Lloyd Webber (01-405 0072). ★ *Chicago* by John Kander and Fred Ebb (01-734 8891). ★ *42nd Street* by Mel Frank and Robert Alton (01-838 8108/8109). ★ *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* by Christopher Bond (01-838 1171). ★ *Joe and Ma* by Joe Turner (01-838 1443). ★ *Phantom of the Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Webber (01-838 2244). ★ *Ran* by Caryl Churchill (01-838 8665). ★ *Starlight Express* by Caryl Churchill (01-838 8665).

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OUT OF TOWN

GLASSBORO: ★ *Joan of Arc* by Robert David Macdonald's production of his own new version of Schiller. Citizens Theatre, Gorbals (041 429 5561), Mon-Sat 7.30pm, £3.

GUILDFORD: ★ *Pride and Prejudice* by Ian Carmichael in attractive adaptation of Jane Austen. Wycombe Avenue Theatre, Millbrook (0438 60191), Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat Thurs 3.00pm and Sat 5pm, £8.50-10.

FILMS

Also on national release
★ Advance booking possible

ANGEL HEART (15): Mickey Rourke's down-at-heel detective pursues a missing person to the wretched underworld of New Orleans. (94 min). Leicester Square Theatre (01-530 3252). Progs 1.45, 5.00, 8.20.

LA BAMBA (15): Conventional biography of the Mexican-American legend Burt Lancaster (100 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.10, 8.20. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.10, 8.20.

BEVERLY HILLS COP II (15): Eddie Murphy again (103 min). Cannon Baker Street (01-435 9772). Progs 1.45, 4.00, 6.15, 8.30.

THE UNTOUCHABLES (15): Clint Eastwood's gangster epic. (115 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.10, 8.20.

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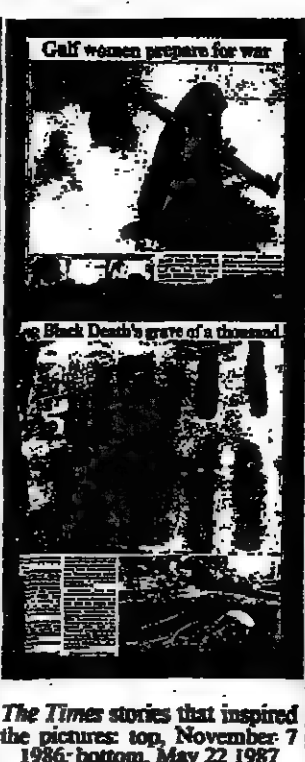
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The Times stories that inspired the pictures: top, November 7 1936; bottom, May 22 1937

An exhibition of recent work by Maggi Hambling, well known to Channel 4 viewers as the low-life, farcical critic of the quiz programme *Golden Balls*, is on display at the Serpentine Gallery, and includes three works influenced directly by news photographs in *The Times*. Her "history paintings" began in 1985, when, she says, "I opened the paper and there was this picture of a Shia Muslim woman screaming after her village had been raided by Israeli troops." She found it so moving that she pinned the cutting on her studio wall and set to. The large painting that resulted reproduces it

faithfully - the woman raising her hands and her cry in agonised unity. In the catalogue, the National Gallery curator, Alistair Smith, compares it to *The Scream*, by Munch, adding that "Hambling makes the event visually more potent and meaningful than any newspaper photograph or television broadcast." Exhibited months later, she was struck by a picture of an Iraqi woman bearing a rocket launcher, and the same process began (top left). She finished the series this summer after seeing John Rogers's back page shot of the archaeological dig at the Royal Mint: an aerial view of

skeletons laid out in a housecomb of individual graves. Her picture (top right) takes a detail from it: "I first thought this one was shocking, but the more I looked, the funnier it seemed. These two are having a chat; this one expresses a different view. The one that's hanging I took to be a self-portrait." Hambling, the first artist in residence at the National Gallery, in 1980, has never had qualms about taking her place among the stars. In 1983 she produced a remarkable series of portraits of the comedian Max Wall - now all made up and clowning around; now a human wreck in his changing

room. The latest exhibition demonstrates her humour and compassion, particularly towards the old, and includes visionary landscapes reminiscent of Samuel Palmer and William Blake. There is also a series based on a bullfight in Barcelona. Some of her bulls are lusty, like Picasso's; others show her distaste. "It's horrible seeing an innocent animal degraded, but I began to realize that a bullfight is a work of art. The greatest art is always confronting life and death." Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (01-462 6075); 10am-5pm. Sarah Jane Checkland

Denny Glover (109 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.10, 8.20. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.10, 8.20.

THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS (PG): Timothy Dalton follows in distinguished footsteps when he assumes the mantle of James Bond (130 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.10, 8.20.

OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE (15): Formula material, cleverly and sparkle by Shelley Long and Bette Midler (100 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.10, 8.20.

THE UNTOUCHABLES (15): Clint Eastwood's gangster epic. (115 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.10, 8.20.

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Julia Marlowe and Richard La Trobe Bateman. Jeweller and furniture maker becomes a designer in this innovative show. Contemporary Applied Arts, 43 Eastern Street, London WC2 (01-838 8665). Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45. Free, until November 14.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00** *Cosplay AM*.
6.30 *Edgar Kennedy in Fish*.
7.00 *Breakfast Time* includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15.
8.40 *Open Air*. Susan Rice and Natalie Anglesley receive viewers' comments on last night's television programmes. To participate ring 081-814 0424.
9.00 *News and weather* followed by *Neighbours* (r).
9.30 *Robert Kilroy-Glik* chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.
10.00 *News and weather* followed by *Going for Gold*. Quiz show (r).
10.25 *Children's BBC* presented by Andy Crane beginning with *Play School* (r).
10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Robert Kilroy-Glik with a thought for the day.
11.00 *Open Air* presented by Susan Rice and Natalie Anglesley.
12.00 *News and weather* followed by *Dr Kildare*. Episode four (r).
12.25 *Only Fools and Horses*. Desi decides that there is money to be made in the tourist industry (r).
12.55 *Regional news and weather*.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. *Weather*.
1.30 *Neighbours*. Marge has a surprise visitor.
1.50 *Film: Love Is a Many Splendored Thing* (1955) starring Jennifer Jones and William Holden. Love story, based on the autobiographical novel by Han Suyin, about a widowed Eurasian doctor and an unhappy married American journalist. Directed by Henry King.
2.25 *Ask Mango*. Mango MacDonald on the latest news and developments in welfare and benefits.

BBC2

- 9.00** *Cosplay AM*.
9.30 *Daytime on Two*: a Perthshire farm. **10.15** *Blackburn's textile industry*.
11.00 *Storyline*. **11.15** *Maths*.
11.35 *Nuts and berries*.
12.00 *Part three of A Taste of Honey*.
12.30 *Do class SE want democracy?*.
1.05 *Apprentices on Australia*.
1.15 *For the very young*.
1.30 *Choices in the third year*.
2.00 *News and weather*.
2.02 *For four- and five-year olds*.
2.10 *Sport on Friday* introduced by David Icke. International Golf: second round action in the Suntory World Matchplay Championship. Includes news and weather at 2.00 and 3.00.
3.30 *Food and Drink*. Summer Quiz presented by Chris Kelly (r).
5.00 *Film: Tarzan's Desert Mystery* (1943, b/w) starring Johnny Weissmuller. The jungle hero is taken prisoner by enemy agents while travelling across the desert to collect life-saving herbs. In trying to escape he does battle with a lion, giant lizards and a monster spider as well as

- 3.40** *Woody Woodpecker*.
3.50 *Comics*.
4.10 *SuperTed* (r).
4.15 *What's All This?* includes music from the Christians.
4.55 *Newsround*.
5.05 *Grange Hill*.
5.15 *Episode six (r)*.
5.35 *Roland Rat - the Series*. The guests are Karen Kaye, Gary Gitter, Samantha Fox and Go West (r).
6.00 *St. O'Clock News* with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Hayton. *Weather*.
7.00 *Wogan*. The guests are Shirley MacLaine, Sheila Hancock and, with a song, the Chieftains.
7.40 *Blankety Blank* presented by Les Dawson. His guests are Beverly Adams, Frank Carson, Barry Cryer, Christian Dior, Su Ingle and Nina Myskow (Cockles).
8.15 *Twenty-One Years of the Two Ronnies*. Messrs Barker and Corbett present selected sketches from their fruitful comic partnership. (Cockles).
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis and Debbie Throver. Regional news and weather.
9.30 *Palski*. Episode three of the serial about the drunken star of a television detective series. (Cockles).
10.20 *Omniarts: The Arts and Glasgow*. Artists are the subject of this second of three films about cultural changes in Russia under Gorbachev.
11.30 *Film: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1966, b/w) starring Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Drama about a middle-aged professor and his wife, who, after a party, invite a new lecturer and his wife back for drinks. During the course of the evening a bitter verbal sparring match between the professor and his wife descends into a mutual character assassination exercise. Directed by Mike Nichols.
1.25 *Weather*.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00** *TV-am* introduced by Kay Burley and Richard Kaye. News at 6.00 and 6.30; weather at 6.55; financial news at 6.55; sport at 6.55; and *Exposures* at 6.55.
7.00 *Good Morning Britain* includes news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; cartoon at 7.35; sport at 7.40; and pop music at 7.55. Plus Jim Croft's television highlights. After Nine includes Russell Grant's predictions for the week ahead.
9.25 *Thames news* broadcast by Janet Dibley. This week, smacked at Grandad Perce who has taken on a new lease of life after finding himself a new girlfriend - an ex-servicewoman. With Tanni Evans and Elizabeth Morgan. (Oracles).
10.00 *News at Ten* with Alistair Burnet and Carol Barnes. Followed by *LMT News* headlines and *Tyson Big Fight*.
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4.00 *Cockleshell Bay*. Seaside adventures of the Cockle twins (r).
4.10 *The Adventures of Tintin*.
4.30 *Scouty Doo*. **4.45** *Scouty Doo*. Includes news of high fashion - on and off the football pitch and young snooker players talking to Steve Davis about a new snooker game that can be played without a table.
5.15 *Stockbusters*. General knowledge game for teenagers.
5.45 *News with Alistair Stewart*.
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I was right, says doctor who backed return of gun

By David Cross

A police doctor who helped the man accused of the Bristol killings to keep his shotgun licence said yesterday that when he examined the man 18 months ago there was nothing to suggest that he was unfit to have the weapon.

Amid renewed calls for even tighter gun controls, Dr Richard Edwards, a deputy police surgeon at Aberystwyth in mid-Wales, said that he could find no signs of depression on the day he saw him "so there was no reason to warrant him not getting a shotgun licence".

Dr Edwards, a deputy police surgeon who has been qualified for 14 years, said: "I would give the same recommendation again. I won't change my mind. I would repeat my decision."

Dr Edwards had examined the man at Aberystwyth police station after he had been found asleep in his car with a shotgun. The man had been reported missing from his Bristol home and suffering from depression.

He was later released without charge and his shotgun was handed back. Dyfed-Powys police sent a report to

Avon and Somerset police, who confiscated the shotgun and the licence while inquiries were made. Dr Edwards was asked for his views on the man's suitability to hold a shotgun certificate.

"I assumed that the man's general practitioner would be asked for his opinion about the man", he said yesterday.

At the opening of inquests into the four who died in Bristol, it was disclosed that at least eight shots from a pump action shotgun were fired when the two employees of the Alexandra Workwear clothing factory on the Patchway industrial estate, north of the city, were killed.

Mr David Pursall, aged 28, a computer manager, died instantly in the computer room after being hit in the arm and the chest. Mr John Peterson, aged 48, an accountant, died in hospital from one blast from a shotgun.

The mother of the solicitor's clerk who was shot dead in Wolverhampton last week said yesterday that no guns should be allowed in any home.

She was one of hundreds of callers to the BBC after the guns issue had been discussed on the Jimmy Young programme on Radio 2.

Miss Louise Winspear, aged 22, and Mr Dennis Hull, a bailiff, were killed as they tried to serve a house possession order in Eritingshall Park.

Ms Winspear said: "My daughter was 22 years old and absolutely everything to me. I just hope that she died for a reason, and that reason would be that the Home Secretary would really change the law on guns."

"No guns should be allowed in any home. They should be kept under lock and key in sporting clubs."



Dr Richard Edwards: "I would repeat my decision."

Patten sees how Paris tackles deprivation

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

French go about trying to reduce crime in deprived areas.

Local officials told Mr Patten of the comprehensive state programmes, extending from central government down through departmental offices to local government agencies, for the rehabilitation of "target" zones.

La Goutte d'Or, he was told, had long been a magnet for immigrants; it now contained at least 30 nationalities. The area had become run down and the crime rate had risen sharply. Prostitution had been a problem. The main thrust of rehabilitation had combined extensive renewal of housing, shopping facilities and social amenities and a policing policy to clean up the area.

At one shop, Mr Patten delighted the Algerian proprietor by buying a handsome umbrella to pose for photographs. "Supporting the private sector", observed the minister, whose two-day trip was principally concerned with examining how the

Police suspect terrorist in Dublin kidnapping



Mr John O'Grady (left), who was kidnapped from his home (centre) in Dublin. His father-in-law, Mr Austin Darragh (right) is thought to have been the intended victim.



Continued from page 1

9pm on Tuesday when the four gunmen, who were armed with two pistols and two handguns, burst into Mr O'Grady's home and held the family hostage overnight.

On Wednesday morning two members of the gang took Mr O'Grady away in his Volvo car. The other two gunmen left after telling Mr O'Grady not to phone the police or contact any family or friends.

At 4.15pm one of the gang phoned Mrs O'Grady to tell her that the Volvo could be found outside the Fairway Hotel in Dundalk. Mrs O'Grady then contacted her father who alerted the police.

O'Hare known as "the Border Fox" is a former member of the Provisional IRA and, more recently, broke

away from the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA).

Both organisations are believed to want to settle scores with O'Hare, who is suspected of being involved in more than 20 murders. He is also wanted in connection with a series of bank robberies along the border.

Police suspect that the gang had intended to kidnap Mr O'Grady's father-in-law, Dr Austin Darragh, aged 60, who is the head of the Institute of Clinical Pharmacology, a clinic used for testing drugs.

Last year, Mr O'Grady bought his secluded home in the Dublin suburb of Cabinteely from his father-in-law, but Dr Darragh is still listed in the telephone directory as the occupant of the Tudor-style detached red-brick house.

Dr Darragh became one of the Republic's wealthiest men in 1984 when investors from the United States paid nearly £10 million for shares in his company, which has a subsidiary in New Jersey and is involved in pioneering work testing new drugs, including those in AIDS research, on humans.

In 1984, Dr Darragh's clinic was at the centre of a dispute after a volunteer, Niall Rush, died during tests for a heart drug. Mr Rush, aged 30, an unemployed Dublin man, was the son of Mr Kevin Rush, a former Irish ambassador to Luxembourg.

Dr Darragh defended his clinic against criticism of using human beings as guinea pigs by arguing that it was reputed to be one of the best clinics in the world.

Irish police have, over the past 13 years, been successful in securing the release of a series of kidnapping victims including Lord and Lady Donoughmore, Dr Tiede Herrema, the Dutch industrialist, Don Tiede, the British-born businessman, Ben Dunne, the Irish supermarket owner, and, last year, Mrs Jennifer Guinness.

But they are particularly anxious this time about the possible involvement of the "Border Fox", who is regarded by police as being a psychopath.

O'Hare, aged 29, is a bricklayer from Co. Armagh. He was released from Portlaoise Prison in the Irish Republic last year but is wanted for questioning by the RUC and the Garda in connection with a number of murders.

Tehran raises stakes in Gulf

Iranians hit US-owned tanker

From Robert Fisk, Dubai

Iran yesterday raised the stakes in the Gulf shipping war by firing a missile at an American-owned tanker berthed at the Kuwaiti offshore oil loading station.

The attack wrecked part of the vessel in an explosion that sent a fireball up to half-a-mile over the sea.

It was the first time any attack of this kind had taken place inside Kuwaiti territorial waters and - if the details are confirmed - the first occasion on which Iran had used a shore-to-ship Silkworm missile in hostilities.

When the explosion took place aboard the 275,932 tonne, Liberian-flagged super-tanker Sungrazer yesterday morning, neither the crew members - who were uninjured - nor the seamen on neighbouring supply ships heard aircraft or saw Iranian naval vessels in the area.

The Kuwaiti authorities later said that it was a missile attack, and urged the United Nations to implement its ceasefire resolution in the Gulf to prevent further Iranian action.

Shipping agents at once suspected that the Sungrazer had been hit by a Chinese-made Silkworm, the nearest bet-

teries of which are on the Iranian-occupied Iraqi peninsula - which would put the tanker just inside the project's 50-mile range.

The Kuwaitis have already accused the Iranians of firing missiles at the offshore terminal this summer, claiming that one exploded in sand on the coastline.

The huge chemical storage tanks in Kuwait port would themselves make a tempting, if catastrophic, target for the Iranians, whose religious leaders have several times threat-

ened to attack Kuwait's industrial areas in retaliation for the country's financial assistance to the regime in Baghdad.

It is, however, also possible that the Sungrazer was the victim of one of the American-made Maverick air-to-sea missiles with which several

Western governments now believe the Iranian Air Force has been re-equipped.

The optically-guided missile could be fired far enough from its target for the ship's crew to be unaware that an aircraft was attacking it.

Part of the Sungrazer's load of crude oil exploded when the missile hit one of the ship's internal tanks, and it took five hours to bring the flames under control.

Outside the Gulf, meanwhile, one of Britain's four naval minehunters discovered another mine off Fujairah yesterday, and destroyed it with explosives laid by a miniature unmanned submarine. HMS Brecon found the mine in the same area in which two other devices were located by the Royal Navy two days earlier.

The numbering on the mine was said to be in sequence with the other two, and also similar to the codings on the mines discovered by the Americans on the Iranian ship, Iran Air, which was attacked by US helicopters earlier this month.

WASHINGTON: The US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, yesterday condemned the Iranian attack as a "very

hostile action toward Kuwait", but neither he nor President Reagan would say what action the US would take in response (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Reagan, speaking after he had just learned of the attack, said he had not discussed it yet with his military joint chief of staff. "Our policy is still we're going to defend ourselves if we're attacked," he said.

Mr Shultz said: "We don't announce what counter-measures or retaliation we may take, but it has been made clear that we do act." But he indicated that the US would not respond directly to this attack.

"The ship is not in international waters. It wasn't being escorted or anything of the kind. In fact, it wasn't a US-flagged vessel."

The US had not changed its rules of engagement. He said these were very carefully drawn.

MANUSCRIPT: The US will hand over to Iran tomorrow four Iranian seamen captured in an engagement between gunboats and American helicopters in the Gulf last week, Omani officials said yesterday (Reuters reports).

Sri Lanka blast kills 20 Indians

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

Twenty Indian soldiers died in a land mine explosion early yesterday in Sri Lanka's eastern Batticaloa district. The incident brings to 79 the admitted Indian death toll in the past five days, though it is thought to be higher than this.

A report from the Indian High Commission in Colombo that 17 soldiers are missing, and believed to be in the hands of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the separatist guerrillas who are battling the Indian Army in the northern town of Jaffna, would bring the official toll very close to 100.

A senior Sri Lankan said last night that he put the present Indian casualties at 108.

The missing men were said by the High Commission to have been taking part in a search operation in the north.

The Liberation Tigers have been claiming in radio messages intercepted by the Indian authorities that they have captured 18 Indians, and the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation said yesterday that the guerrillas boasted that they were "killing" them, with necklaces of car tyres.

Such reports will clearly have some effect on the morale of the Indian troops.

According to Western diplomats, the effect will vary according to whether the Indians feel they are winning or losing the battle in the north.

The fact that the Indian forces are still travelling the roads of the Northern and Eastern provinces, in thin-

skinned three-ton trucks shows that some lessons learned by the Sri Lankan forces during the past four years of the Tamil insurgency, have still to be learned by the Indians.

The 20 soldiers died when one truck in a convoy of seven was blown up by a remote-controlled mine. Four other soldiers in the truck were badly injured.

Sri Lankan troops were ordered never to travel in large numbers in vehicles, and usually used heavily armoured South African Buffel personnel carriers. In the end, the soldiers used to move only in helicopters.

Troops in the Indian convoy followed cycle tracks from the site of the explosion to a house, and there was an exchange of fire with guerrillas.

The High Commission said later that 29 people had been taken into custody. These included at least one hard core terrorist.

Evidently in an effort to relieve the pressure on their colleagues in the north the rebels in the east have been stepping up their campaign. Yesterday also saw another attack on a Sinhalese village in the Trincomalee district in which 10 villagers were stabbed or hacked to death.

A second military vehicle was ambushed at Kikukotura close to a size where 125 bus passengers were done to death last June. The three people killed were two members of Sri Lanka's national auxiliary force of volunteer soldiers and a jeep-driver.

China bid to stamp out racket in fakes

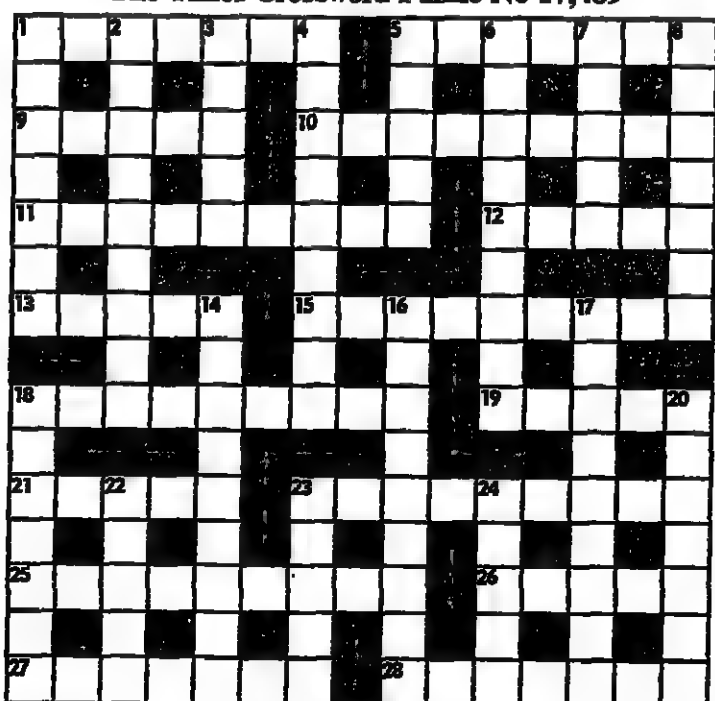
Peking (Reuters) - The latest commercial exhibition to open in Peking offers paying visitors a dazzling range of goods - shoddy, poisonous, or dishonest fakes of the country's most prestigious brand names.

The show features counterfeit Forever brand bicycles

likely to fall apart within a few miles, fake rice wine which could kill, useless herbal medicines and shoddy copies of fashionable clothes.

The Chinese authorities are hoping to stamp out the massive counterfeit racket by exposing the culprits and warning the public.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,489



- ACROSS**
- Wise as inept characters may become (7).
 - Two girls quietly returning to a royal burial-place (7).
 - About to open the beer by oneself (5).
 - They indicate a course for hotel attendants, it's said (4-5).
 - Not caring for books on informal wear (9).
 - Subject for this kind of song (5).
 - Apprehend the old boy - he's rich and powerful (5).
 - This vicar is eccentric as a keeper of records (9).
 - Two birds taking a chance on the way? (3-6).
 - Rise about right for pop musicians (5).
 - Lawrence, by another name, kept Oriental flowers (5).
 - Pity remark by 1 ac is first-class (9).
 - Sail for ark, no more in need of repair (9).
 - Complaint made when the relish is left unfinished (5).
 - What little jaws these kids have! (7).
 - A portable stand or something (7).
- DOWN**
- Quiet girl on an Irish river (7).
 - A young farmer may have his share (9).
 - Resin of help to ukulele minstrels (5).
 - Conversation above board? No, under and around it (5-4).
 - Guide whose fall was drawn by Tenniel (5).
 - Soldiers raising objections but proving to be wrong (9).
 - Low quarters for a debarker (5).
 - A course to abandon, by the sound of it (7).
 - Supporter I brought down a couple of steps to this bar (9).
 - It makes liquor available for an Irish prison warder (9).
 - One may be spotted alone in this (9).
 - There's a case for putting him in a box (7).
 - Page allowed to eat a president's cake (7).
 - Quick gain from this exclusive story? (5).
 - Revives a northern holiday (5).
 - Two firms meet over a drink (5).

Concise crossword, page 10

WEATHER

General situation: An unsettled autumnal look to the weather. Overnight a vigorous depression crossed eastern districts, giving further heavy rain. This is expected to move away into the North Sea allowing a brief respite before scattered showers develop further and become quite widespread during afternoon, possibly accompanied by thunder. In the north showers will fall as snow over hills. It will be windy in the south-west and far north. It will be rather cool, from 12 to 14C (54 to 57F) in the south, a maximum of 10C (50F) in the north. Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Remaining unsettled with further showers. Sunnier and warmer in the south and east.

ABROAD

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Algeria	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Algeria	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Algeria	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Algeria	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Algeria	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Algeria	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Algeria	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Algeria	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Algeria	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
Algeria	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18

AROUND BRITAIN

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18

HIGH TIDES

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
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THE POUND

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AM

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PM

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London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18
London	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18	12-18

MANCHESTER

FRIDAY OCTOBER 16 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1812.9 (-21.8)

FT-SE 100
2301.9 (-21.0)

Bargains
34787 (35468)

USM (Datastream)
228.06 (-0.87)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8645 (+0.0105)

W German mark
2.9989 (+0.0032)

Trade-weighted
73.5 (+0.2)

Profit rise to £18m for Fisher

Mr Tony Miller's Albert Fisher Group, which has expanded by pulling together a host of small, fresh food businesses in Britain, the Continent and North America more than doubled its annual profits to end-June from £8.4 million to £18.5 million.

The dividend is doubled to 2.25p a share and Mr Miller promises to maintain the rate on a share capital enlarged by a one-for-two scrip issue.

Fisher made 14 acquisitions but even without these, and after stripping out the £1.67 million income earned on the £81.7 million rights issue proceeds funds banked in May, profits improved by 33.3 per cent.

Temper, page 22

Caparo ahead

Caparo Industries reported interim pretax profits to end-June up from £15,000 to £12.2 million. There is an unchanged interim dividend of 0.75p. Shareholders may receive shares in lieu of dividends.

Temper, page 22

Bowater buy

Bowater Industries, the industrial holding group, is making a £141 million agreed takeover bid for Rexham Corporation, a US producer of packaging materials. Rexham earned £3.6 million in the first nine months of this year.

Liffe record

The London International Financial Futures Exchange yesterday traded a record 115,000 futures and options.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2407.31 (-6.38)
Dow Jones	2407.31 (-6.38)
Nikkei Average	28428.22 (-218.21)
Hong Kong	3628.64 (-15.84)
Amsterdam Gen	290.3 (-11.5)
Sydney AO	2146.4 (-38.5)
Frankfurt	1902.6 (-44.3)
Brussels	4898.4 (-113.5)
Paris CAC	3671.2 (-21.2)
Zurich S&K Gen	692.5 (-6.1)
London:	
FT-A All-Share	1189.92 (-9.88)
FT-100	1287.82 (-10.98)
FT Gold Mines	436.3 (-1.9)
FT Fixed Interest	91.50 (-0.17)
FT Govt Secs	84.90 (-0.78)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises:	
Hill & Smith	233p (+12p)
Britannia Secs	275p (+12p)
Church	844p (+12p)
Elan	344p (+12p)
GUS-A	1421p (+20p)
Morseau	108p (+20p)
Airprung	288p (+17p)
Ty Homs	482p (+14p)

Falls:	
ICI	1577p (-18p)
Glaxo	1405p (-35p)
BICC	408p (-21p)
Abbey	315p (-30p)
J. Sainsbury	195p (-12p)
Farnell	538p (-22p)
Boddington	204p (-14p)
OTT	273p (-15p)
Reuters	771p (-16p)
Saschli & Satchi	554p (-24p)
Morgan Grenfell	549p (-20p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month Interbank 10 1/8-10 3/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.15-7.14%
30-year bonds 8 7/8-8 7/8%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.8645	£ \$1.8645
DM 2.9989	DM 2.9989
Swfr 2.4776	Swfr 2.4776
Yen 163.978	Yen 163.978
Yen 236.60	Yen 236.60
Index 73.5	Index 73.5
ECU 16.9203	ECU 16.9203

GOLD

London: 468.00
New York: 468.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) pm \$18.75 (\$18.75)
Denotes latest trading price

Macfarlane warns of action if Distillers payment is demanded

Guinness may sue advisers

Sir Norman Macfarlane, the Guinness chairman, yesterday said the drinks and brewing group would consider suing its professional advisers if it had to make an extra payment to former Distillers shareholders as a result of the Takeover Panel investigation into the company.

Sir Norman was responding to a question from a Guinness shareholder at the extraordinary meeting called to approve the purchase of the Schenley Business and the sale of Martin CTN Group.

The shareholder, Mr Antony Lawson-Smith, asked Sir Norman for "some assurance that if the Panel decides that additional money should be paid out, you would seek to have the money recovered from Guinness's professional advisers". He added that the advisers he was referring to were Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, Cazenove, the stockbroker and Freshfields, the law firm.

Sir Norman, who regularly stressed that he wanted to be as "forthright" in his responses as possible, said: "We would certainly contemplate pursuing the action you have outlined".

The Takeover Panel is now engaged in a top-secret investigation into the Guinness takeover of Distillers. It is examining the role played by associates or potential associates of Guinness during the bid.

Cazenove, Guinness's joint stockbroker during the bid, has already attended a meeting of the full Panel and has been questioned about dealings they carried out for Guinness.

The Panel is believed to have examined whether Bank Leu, or its clients, for whom Cazenove purchased Distillers shares during the bid, could be regarded as associates of Guinness.

In particular, the Panel is believed to be interested in the purchase of a block of 10 million Distillers shares at a price 70p above the value of

Guinness's cash offer. The shares were owned by Warburg Investment Management and purchased by clients of Cazenove.

A number of eyebrows were raised at the price that was paid at the time and Argyll Group, Guinness's rival for Distillers, complained about the transaction to the Takeover Panel. However, Cazenove assured the Panel that the purchaser was not an associate of Guinness.

If Distillers shares were purchased by a Guinness associate at above the price of their cash offer, this would have necessitated Guinness raising its offer to the level paid by the associate.

The Takeover Panel has been anxious to flex its muscles over Guinness. The Panel has been forced to sit on the sidelines and endure a barrage of criticism in Parliament and the City over its ability to police hostile takeover battles.

If it were to decide that the purchaser of the Warburg Investment Management stake was an associate of Guinness, it could rule retrospectively that Guinness should pay an extra 70p a share - or £150 million - to Distillers shareholders.

Sir Norman was also asked by a shareholder about the role Bain & Co, the US management consultant, was now playing at Guinness.

He said that Mr Anthony Tennant, the chief executive, had recently presented a paper on Bain to the Guinness board.

Mr Tennant told the shareholders that Guinness continued to use Bain on one or two consultancy projects that had been in hand for some time.

When asked whether the relationship with Bain would end once the existing projects were finished, Mr Tennant said there were other good management consultants apart from Bain, and where consultancy work was required, Guinness would choose the most appropriate.

Ronson's Heron calls off Eurobond issue

By John Bell, City Editor

Heron International, the £1.2 billion property to entertainment empire controlled by Mr Gerald Ronson and his family, has dropped plans to raise £50 million via a Eurobond issue.

Mr Ronson was charged this week with the theft of £5.8 million in connection with the £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers by Guinness.

Heron International said that it was not to proceed with the issue, which was launched on September 18 and was due to close next Monday. The company would not give any reasons for the change of plan.

Heron has been a regular user of the Eurobond market for some time and its paper is normally well received in the market. As a private company, the group has no access to the usual sources of equity finance via leading stock exchanges. City sources were saying yesterday that Heron's withdrawal from the market was a temporary measure and that the issue postponed yesterday would be revived in the near future.

Turnover was up 244 per cent to £497 million.

However, Victor Value was included for the full year, compared with only 20 weeks last year. If Victor Value is excluded, the rise in turnover is 11.7 per cent.

Excluding turnover from new stores, the impact of the extra week - the year to July 4 was a 53-week period - and food price inflation of 1.5 per cent, the volume increase in Bejam stores was just 2.5 per cent compared with 2 per cent in the previous year.

The managing director, Mr Tim How, said he hoped to increase volumes further. He said: "We have a major programme to refurbish our stores at the rate of 40 a year. This includes introducing glass-lidded freezers. This is particularly important to display our new products - we introduced over 100 new Bejam-label frozen products last year."

New freezer centres contributed just under half of the turnover increase. A total of 32 Bejam stores came into operation last year, bringing the retail sales area up to 1.18 million square feet in 251 locations.

Temper, page 22

Bejam shares fall 6p on 20% profits rise

By Carol Ferguson

Response to Bejam's latest results was muted yesterday. The frozen food retailer matched expectations, announcing pretax profits up 19.5 per cent to £23.5 million and the share price fell 6p to 242p.

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Temper, page 22

Shares fall sharply after board rejects £226m bid

By Cliff Fehnam

Shares in Boddingtons, the Manchester brewers, fell sharply yesterday after the pubs to disco group Midsummer Leisure abandoned plans to make a £226 million takeover bid for the business.

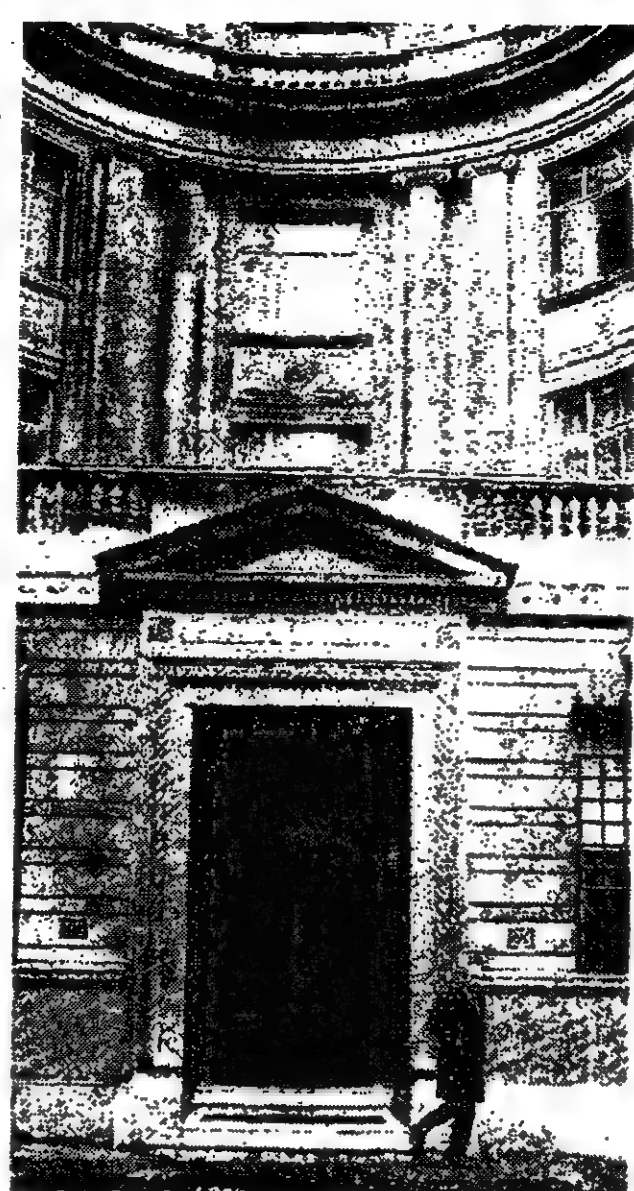
Midsummer had been prepared to offer 252p a share in return for the support of the Boddingtons board. But the brewing group, backed by its two main shareholders, threw out the proposal and - in its 100th year - opted for independence.

But if champagne was being uncorked in Manchester, stiff drinks were being ordered in London as the shares went as flat as yesterday's draught bitter. The shares, which had jumped 62p earlier in the week to 229p on the prospect of a bid being recommended, slumped 23p to finish the day at 195p. Dealers feel they could fall even further.

Midsummer Leisure, the old Camra real ale concern, lost no time in launching a strong attack on the attitude of the Boddingtons board. Mr Adam Page, the chairman, said he was surprised that Boddingtons - backed by the powerful Whitbread Investment Company and Britannia Assurance, which together control around 34 per cent of the equity - had turned down his plan for a get-together without even asking for a meeting to discuss his ideas.

He said: "I think Boddingtons have acted irresponsibly and in a feudal, high-handed manner which is not in the best interests of their shareholders, who have been deprived of the opportunity of an offer for their shares considerably in excess of the level at which they were trading before we came along."

"The Boddingtons directors appear to believe they have a divine right to run the company and I think they owe an explanation to their shareholders. Their own performance has not been good enough."



A banker's world: Roger Seelig with Morgan Grenfell's City headquarters, left, and the home he shares with his mother

Roger Seelig: the very model of a modern merchant banker

By Richard Thomson, Lawrence Lever and Howard Foster

Roger Seelig seemed, until his fall in the spinoff from the Guinness affair, to be the very model of a modern merchant banker. Aggressively hard-working, an early obsessive with the cordless telephone, constantly merging his social and work life, the 41-year-old bachelor built up a reputation over the past eight years as the City's number one dealmaker.

His style was perfect for a City in which takeovers were played by increasingly rough rules for stakes which were rising ever faster.

It was a style and a skill which paid handsomely for him and for his bank, Morgan Grenfell.

He enjoys skiing and hunting and is a member of the Royal Society of Arts. A friend described him as preferring formal social occasions in London - such as official balls

- to the hectic round of nightclubs and discotheques.

He has a home near Tetbury in Gloucestershire - Upton House, close to the Prince and Princess of Wales' Highgrove House - which he shares with his mother, but can often be contacted at a prestigious address in London W2 where he is believed to have a long-time girlfriend. He claims always to have been "too busy" to have married.

The pop tycoon, Richard Branson, for whom Seelig handled the flotation of the Virgin Group, became a friend, as did the property millionaire Elliot Bernard of whose company, Stockley, Mr Seelig was a director.

A salary which even before Big Bang was estimated at about £250,000 and the chance to deal aggressively on the Stock Exchange as long as he did not use inside information

meant that money was no problem.

The arrangement worked well for his employers, too. Once regarded as stuffy and conservative, for years Morgan Grenfell has dominated the takeover and mergers league tables both in numbers of deals transacted and their value in money terms.

Morgan specialized in siding with the predator against the victim in takeover bids and in recent years the predators have often won. This owed much to the aggressive tactics which Morgan developed to outwit its opponents.

The star of this success was undoubtedly Seelig who, if not always liked, was highly respected and feared by rivals.

Seelig has spent most of his working life at Morgan.

He joined the bank in 1971 following a short spell at Esso,

where he was financial assistant to the treasurer. He holds an economics degree from the London School of Economics.

He became a corporate finance director of Morgan Grenfell in 1979. He was often in the thick of hotly contested and slightly controversial battles, such as the Guinness bid for Distillers, United Biscuits' battle with Hanson over Imperial Foods and Dixons bid for Curry's. He also played a part in the Burton takeover for Debenhams, as adviser to Habitat, which had linked itself with Burton to give its bid added credibility in the City. Morgan's attitude was that it was perfectly legitimate to stretch the takeover rules.

According to Morgan insiders, the bank's senior management was unwilling to put bureaucratic shackles on Seelig who was earning them such hefty fees.

The police are using an area of the act for which Prof Pennington said there was little or no precedent in cases involving the business world. It has been used for cases where defendants are alleged to have used other people's credit cards.

Prof Pennington said the Guinness affair could involve defendants who simply said they were not stealing anything but receiving something from a responsible director of a company. He said: "It could very well be pleaded that however high the price he gave some advice, and it is up to the company to decide how much he should be paid."

"Unless there is evidence of bad faith or fraud it would look, I would have thought, that this was a matter for the Guinness directors to decide, and not something the courts could pronounce on. But we have not got any definite ruling on that sort of thing under the Theft Act."



A banker's world: Roger Seelig with Morgan Grenfell's City headquarters, left, and the home he shares with his mother

Policing the City poses problems

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Following the arrest of Roger Seelig, one of Britain's leading commercial law experts said yesterday that the Guinness affair has posed new questions about policing the City which may take the courts three years to resolve and cost anything up to £10 million.

Professor Robert Pennington, Professor of Commercial Law at Birmingham University and author of Pennington's Company Law, asked whether the novel use of the Theft Act will, in fact, collapse. The authorities, he argued, might have been better to leave the Guinness affair to be settled in the civil courts, without cost to the public.

But the police argue that they have not drawn up the charges. These, they say, have been the work of eminent counsel aware of legal niceties as they frame the charges.

The Department of Trade investigation from which the police inquiry was launched is continuing, and the police are being given transcripts of evidence collected by DTI inspectors. The introduction of the police into the inquiry was intended to speed up the investigation.

The police charges against various defendants have relied heavily on the Companies Act and the Theft Act 1968, which defines theft simply as an action which appropriates property belonging to someone else with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it. The act does not suggest that the property has been taken for the alleged thief's own gain.

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BUSINESS SUMMARY

Kingsley half-time profits up 29%

The rapid growth of Kingsley & Forster, the Manchester toys and textiles group, has paid off in a 29 per cent rise in interim taxable profits to £1.11 million. Turnover was about £4 million better at £31.2 million and the half-time dividend remains at 1p. The results are the first following the group's acquisition in August of Comfy Quilts and Textiles, which will enable K & F to sell quilts, towels and pillows.

Mr Arnold Forester, the chairman, said that a deal agreed in May with Fieldcrest Cannon of the United States, under which K & F will manufacture and distribute the American company's home textiles in Britain, would come into full operation next year.

Reed buys publisher

Reed International, the printing and publishing group, is increasing its presence in the free newspaper market in a deal which will expand the company's coverage in the greater London area to 1.3 million sales. Reed is buying Billington & Wright, publisher of the Independent Group of Free Newspapers, which distributes more than 500,000 copies weekly.

Savage in £5m deal

Savage Group, the USM-listed shelving manufacturer, is paying £5.5 million for Newton Holdings, which packages and supplies BIL door furniture. There will be further payments up to a maximum of £8.5 million, depending on profits over the next two years. Last year Newton increased profits before tax from £196,000 to £586,000 on turnover of £5.8 million.

Loss for Musterlin

Shares in Musterlin Group, the Oxford packaging and book-publishing specialist, fell sharply yesterday after news of a £268,000 loss in the first half of the current year. There was a modest profit of £36,000 in the first half of last year. The 18p fall in Musterlin shares, to 155p, reflected surprise at the loss following the confident words of Mr George Riches, the chairman, last April, when he said that the outlook was for further firm growth.

Musterlin, which publishes high-quality art and art history books under the Phaidon imprint, said prospects for the full year were encouraging in all sectors, though much remained to be achieved in the second six months. Shareholders are to receive an unchanged interim dividend of 1p a share.

Abbey seeks £11.6m

Abbey, the Dublin house-builder and plant hire group, is raising £11.6 million through a placing of 3.52 million shares at 330p each. The shares are being placed by the Dublin stockbroker J&E Davy to provide funds for buying building and plant hire companies. Abbey said that strengthening its capital base would enhance the board's ability to maximize profitability.

TDS Circuits stays in red

TDS Circuits, the printed circuit board maker, remained deep in the red during the first six months. Pretax losses were £205,000 compared with £546,000 last year. The loss was struck after a £700,000 credit from a loss of profits insurance arrangement following a factory fire. A further £320,000 will be credited to the profit and loss account in the second half.

Abaco pays out £1m

Abaco Investments, the fast-growing financial services company whose aggressive acquisition policy led to a near-fivefold growth in profits last year, announced its latest purchase yesterday. It is paying £1.08 million for the Birkett Stevens Colman Partnership, a consulting civil engineering firm with offices in Leeds and London.

The partnership, which made pretax profits of £162,000 in the year to June, will allow Abaco to widen the range of building and technical services offered by its existing subsidiaries, AVC Technical Services Group and Mott Green & Wall. About £700,000 of the purchase price will be paid in cash and the balance in new shares.

Delyn trebles interim profit

Strong demand for consumer plastic packaging helped Delyn Packaging more than treble interim pretax profits to £155,000, but it is warning shareholders not to expect a similar boom in the second half. Delyn is expanding into consumer areas, such as cosmetics. Turnover grew from £2.69 million to £3.57 million in the six months to August. The dividend rises from 0.25p to 0.375p.

First-half hull hits Billam

J Billam, the Sheffield sheet metal engineer, swung from a £146,875 pretax profit to a £46,000 loss in the first half of the year. The board said it was difficult to make predictions as it was hit by a lull in its sector in the first few months of this year. But it is confident of recovering in the second half. The shares lost 10p at 198p. The company is paying an interim dividend of 1.6p, up from 1.5p last time.

STOCK MARKET

Dealers confident of rally after £5bn blitz on shares

By Michael Clark

Share prices on the London stock market are expected to stage a welcome rally when trading resumes today.

That was last night's confident prediction of several brokers and fund managers who have watched London put up an impressive rearguard action during the past couple of days in the wake of the upheavals on Wall Street, which tumbled by a record-breaking 95 points overnight after the worse-than-expected American trade figures.

Market-makers, worried by the prospect of heavy selling, went on the defensive from the start. By the close of business, about £5 billion had been wiped from share values. But selling pressure was again described as light as fund managers beat a hasty retreat to the sidelines and appeared content to bide their time.

Prices closed above their worst levels of the day, helped by the appearance of a few cheap buyers after hours and a steadier tone in renewed trading on Wall Street.

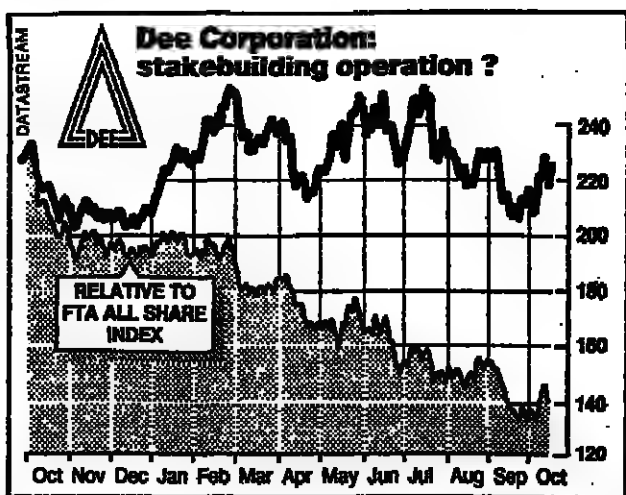
Most brokers claim that because of the pound's strength on the foreign exchanges, the chances of another rise in base rates can be ruled out — for the time being.

The FT index of 30 shares finished 21.8 lower at 1,812.9 — its lowest level for a month — after being 27.9 down on one stage. The broader FT-SE 100, down 33.5 earlier, closed 21.0 lower at 2,301.9.

Gifts, still perturbed by the prospect of dearer money, ran into a few nervous sellers. Losses at the longer end stretched to £14.

BP put up a steady performance after the confirmation that the remaining shares being sold by the Government were being offered at 330p each with investors paying an initial 120p. BP had suffered a last-minute bout of jitters on Wednesday, worried by reports of one large seller doing the rounds. The price ended the day only 2p lower at 349p despite the shake-out in the rest of the market.

The big four clearing banks also regained some of their composure after Wednesday's shake-out and the Governor of the Bank of England's



comments about recent bid speculation. Lloyds Bank led the way higher on reports in *The Times* that Brazil may be willing to start repaying some of the interest on its commercial bank debt, totalling \$68 million (£41 million). This

could go even higher after a prolonged period in the doldrums.

There has been talk that Hillsdown Holdings, the acquisitive food producer and furniture manufacturer, has been quietly buying the shares. Optimists hope that it could be the prelude to a full bid. There is talk that Dee could command a break-up value of 350p a share with its interests in both Britain and the US.

Last year, Dee spent about £1 billion on acquisitions, including the Herman's Sporting Goods chain in the US. Most of the purchases were financed by the issue of extra shares — which is probably the single biggest reason for the underperformance of the share price this year.

Hillsdown has made more than 50 acquisitions in the past couple of years, but has

never taken on a company the size of Dee, which currently boasts a price-tag of almost £2 billion. By comparison, Hillsdown, up 3p at 355p, is valued at only about £1.4 billion.

Hillsdown's name is also

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey 1,307	Gore 918	Land Sec 2,225	Royal Ind 905
Alco-Lyons 6,473	CU 3,000	Lag 414	Royal Ind 5,557
Amrad 5,556	Core Gold 1,719	LAG 247	Satchi 1,831
ASDA 3,895	Gold 985	Lloyds 2,404	Saturn 5,891
AB Foods 871	Courtauld 1,688	Lorino 2,324	Scott & N 1,307
Argyll 2,388	Dalrymple 402	Lucas 1,165	Seas 3,124
BAA 5,518	Davey 1,123	Magnet 348	Seagrid 4,083
BET 1,604	Dawson 1,123	MES 5,551	Shel 5,477
BTR 2,883	ECC 3,038	MEPC 1,307	Smith & N 1,820
BAT 2,228	Emmepre 559	Miami Box 1,508	STC 5,822
Barclays 1,217	Environ 3,854	Milford 4,252	Stan Chart 547
Bass 889	Environ 2,657	NetWest 535	Storax 168
Beecham 1,883	Gen Ag 949	Nest 3,883	Sun Alliance 188
Bentley 344	Globe 1,547	NIP Food 408	T & N 678
BICC 2,713	Globe 1,547	NSO 1,225	Tarmac 2,759
Blue Circle 2,713	Globe 1,547	Pearl 1,467	Tier & Lyle 545
BOC 1,582	Globe 1,547	Pearson 788	TIB 5,480
Boole 3,645	Grand Mill 2,072	Pickering 5,201	Tesco 909
BPB 537	GU 'A' 1,112	Plessey 2,373	Thorn EM 1,139
Br Aero 1,833	GU 'B' 884	Presidential 327	Triglav 2,389
Br Airways 1,481	GU 'C' 884	Racal 3,006	THF 6,489
Br Comm 721	Guinness 2,412	Rank 235	Unicomp 994
Br Gas 4,301	Hamm 'A' 884	RAC 251	Unilever 2,240
Br Petrol 58,785	Hamm 'B' 884	RAC 251	Unilever 2,240
BPCC 2,402	Hawker 2,477	Read 1,409	Unilever 2,240
Br Telecom 6,500	Hawker 2,477	Read 1,409	Unilever 2,240
Britoil 2,812	Hilldown 5,598	Reid 1,409	Unilever 2,240
Britair 863	Hilldown 5,598	Reid 1,409	Unilever 2,240
Burnish 165	ICI 3,551	Reid 1,409	Unilever 2,240
Burton 1,971	Jaguar 5,189	Reid 1,409	Unilever 2,240
C&W 8,234	Qano 589	Reid 1,409	Unilever 2,240
Castbury 2,876	Ladbroke 1,154	Reid 1,409	Unilever 2,240

Cookson acquires Spanish company

Cookson, the specialist industrial materials group, is buying a 91 per cent stake in Zircolox, a Spanish-based manufacturer of compounds for the ceramics industry. No figure has been put on the acquisition, but it is not thought to be a significant amount.

Parkway Group

Parkway Group has conditionally agreed to purchase Blackburn Print. The initial consideration is about £620,000 — £250,000 in cash and the issue of 100,000 new ordinary shares.

Pretax deficit

No interim dividend is being paid by Baillie Gifford Technology for the half-year to August 31. Gross income fell to £101,342 (£168,027) and there was a pretax deficit of £21,733 (£53,508 profit). The loss per share was 0.22p (earnings 0.34p).

Bisichi Tin level

Bisichi Tin's turnover was almost unchanged at £140,000 (£136,000) for the first half of this year. Pretax profit was £73,000 (£70,000). There is an extraordinary credit of £117,000 (£6,000 debit). Earnings per share, before extraordinary items, were 0.81p (0.75p). No interim dividend is being paid (nil).

Dividend raised

Nu-Swift Industries is paying an interim dividend of 2p (1.75p) for the first half of this year. On turnover of £65.12 million (£57.16 million), pretax profit rose to £11.25 million (£6.02 million). This year there was an extraordinary debit of £320,000 (£2.11 million). Earnings per share were 13.17p (9.43p). The board continues to be encouraged by the progress in the first half of 1987.

Radamec ahead

On turnover up from £3.96 million to £5.12 million, Radamec Group's pretax profit reached £602,000 (£579,000) in the first half of this year. Earnings per share, based on a weighted average, were 2.43p (2.58p). An interim dividend of 0.5p is being paid.

Cityvision rights

On a turnover of £1.87 million (£1.2 million), Cityvision made

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	10.00%
Bank & Company	10.00%
BCA	10.00%
Consolidated Crds	10.00%
Co-operative Bank	10.00%
C. Hoare & Co	10.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.00%
Lloyds Bank	10.00%
Nat Westminster	10.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.00%
TSB	10.00%
Citibank NA	10.00%

TEMPUS

Fisher leader of the pack

Economists estimate that 50 cents in every dollar spent by Americans on food by 1990 will be spent outside the home. Half of Albert Fisher's sales come from supplying restaurants, hotels and institutions. Consequently, the lead established by Fisher in 1982, when its new board was first to spot the potential for a big player in a highly-fragmented industry, has increased.

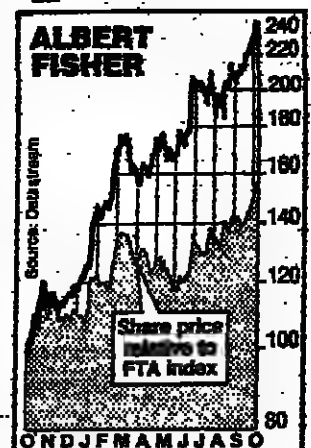
Profits more than doubled from £8.4 million to £18.5 million in the year to end-August and, even after stripping out the 14 acquisitions during the year, they were a third higher than last time.

Fisher's reputation in the acquisition field — retaining existing management and rewarding it with sophisticated incentive deals — now precedes it, which will be helpful as it puts the final pieces of its United States network together on the northern stretches of the East Coast and as it prepares for an invasion of the Continent, based on its recently-acquired Dutch foothold.

The acquisition programme will continue to be fast and furious. About £69 million of last summer's rights issue money is still sitting in the bank — it was responsible for £1.7 million of the profit — and cash resources are put at £140 million. That would mean gearing of 60 per cent.

The way forward in Britain may yet be through a huge merger but forget ideas of a hostile bid — and that rules out the market's favourite, Fitch Lovell.

Fisher's share price, aided by the promise of an effective 30 per cent dividend increase for the current year, bucked the market trend yesterday, adding 3p to 230p. Last May the rights shares could be had for 154p. Only now are institutional investors waking up to Fisher's achievements and potential. Its shares will not lag behind.



Caparo

The light at the end of the tunnel is drawing closer for Caparo Industries. Although Fidelity seems unlikely to attract an outside buyer or a joint venture partner, the private company belonging to Caparo's chairman, Swraj Paul, is prepared to buy it.

This assumes the time and money invested in Fidelity will reap rewards but not on a time scale acceptable to the group's ordinary shareholders.

Moreover, Fidelity's problems have placed a drain on management resources, restricting opportunities.

By the year-end, the disposal of Fidelity should coincide with the purchase of an engineering company.

The rest of Caparo is trading well, benefiting from tighter management. However, full-year figures will be depressed by £800,000 from unsuccessful currency hedging.

Group profits for the year may include a full year's losses from Fidelity if still part of the group (giving pretax profits of £3.2 million) or the first three months' losses only (making pretax profits of £5 million).

Whatever the worst is over and the shares have further to go on the recovery route.

Bejam opens up

Bejam's core business is not one to set the heart beating faster and the pulse racing. Freezer centres, wherever it runs them, are not the most attractive places to shop, and the big supermarkets have been capturing an increasing proportion of frozen-food sales.

In recognition of this, Bejam is refurbishing its stores and the food itself will be better displayed in glass-fronted freezer cabinets. Bejam is also broadening the range of products it sells, both frozen and chilled.

But the key to growth lies in a faster rate of store openings, and last year the group opened more selling space than at any time in its history. This year it will do the same again.

Victor Value, Bejam's limited range discount chain, is still struggling to make a meaningful contribution to profits. Last year, the first full year since acquisition, it did little better than cover its interest costs although the integration of the purchasing and computer departments makes exact measurement

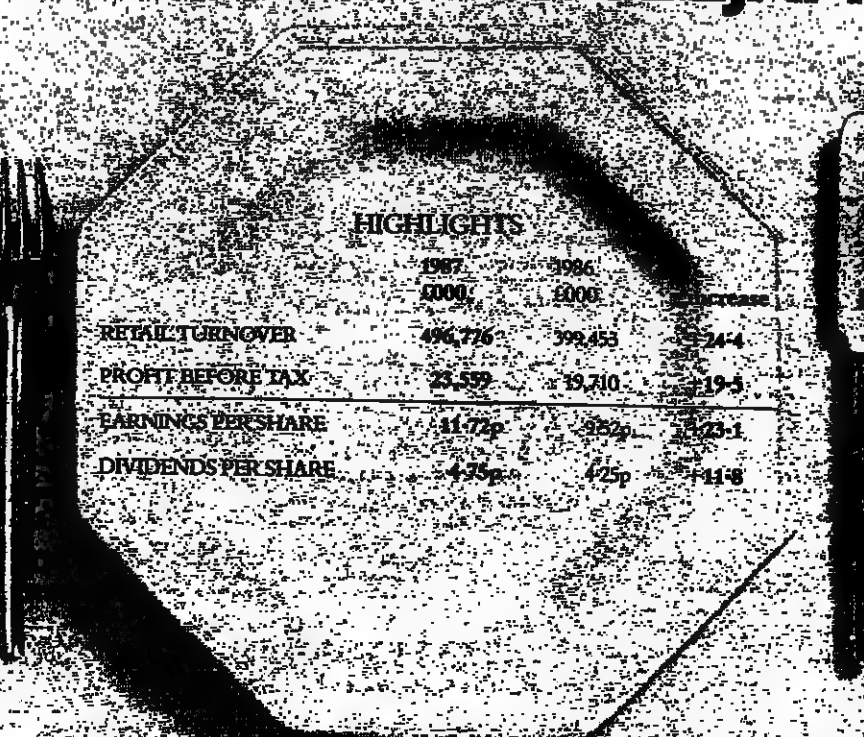
difficult. To become viable in its own right, it needs to reach a critical mass of about 100 stores, double the number it has.

The group has, however, experienced the benefits of greater grocery purchasing power, since buying Victor Value and pretax margins in the rest of the business, excluding Victor Value, increased from 5.6 per cent to 5.9 per cent.

Sales of electrical appliances were disappointingly flat. Most of Bejam's sales are replacement appliances and it intends to increase its emphasis on dishwashers, where market penetration is still comparatively low.

On the basis of yesterday's results, Mr Paul Smiddy, retail analyst at Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, has slightly upgraded his forecast for this year to £28.5 million pretax. The bid fever surrounding the group earlier this year has evaporated and the prospective multiple of 17.4 is justified by the fundamentals, but there are more exciting prospects elsewhere in the sector.

A HOT YEAR FOR BEJAM



Profit per square foot of freezer centre space is amongst the best in food retailing.

A record 32 new Bejam stores were opened during the year, including a group of 13 stores in Scotland.

A huge pilot range refurbishment programme has commenced, including the installation of glass-fronted freezers throughout.

Over 100 new Bejam frozen food products introduced this year.

Range of goods offered is now wider than ever, with over 90% of stores offering chilled fresh food.

The Board has been instructed to maintain the Group's rapid growth.

Bejam
We're hot

Our 1987 Annual Report will be published shortly. For a copy please contact the Company Secretary at Bejam Group PLC, 1 Garsfield Road, Hoxeyton Lane, Stannmore, Middlesex, HA7 1LP.

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No.	Company	Group	Gold as %
1	T & N (m)	Industrials S-Z	
2	Unilever (m)	Food	
3	Oliver (m)	Drugs, Stores	
4	Thames	Oil & Gas	
5	BTR (m)	Industrials A-D	
6	Hong Kong Land	Property	
7	Sole Shop	Drugs, Stores	
8	Asahi Paper	Paper, Print, Adv	
9	Boysen	Industrials E-K	
10	CH Ind	Industrials A-D	
11	Marshall	Building, Roads	
12	Marshall Group	Drugs, Stores	
13	Marshall (m)	Industrials L-K	
14	Marshall (m)	Industrials L-K	
15	RAF	Motor, Aircraft	
16	Dunlop	Electricals	
17	Gilbey & Dandy	Building, Roads	
18	Isaco	Oil & Gas	
19	Eden	Industrials E-K	
20	Miller (m)	Building, Roads	
21	Eastland	Oil & Gas	
22	Dun (m)	Food	
23	British	Newspapers, Pub	
24	Thames (m)	Building, Roads	
25	Next (m)	Drugs, Stores	
26	Transcontinental	Industrials S-Z	
27	Steeley (AG)	Drugs, Stores	
28	Dunlop Tires	Property	
29	First Leisure	Leisure	
30	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	
31	Devacon	Electricals	
32	Fluor King	Property	
33	Thurth	Building, Roads	
34	Noble & Land	Industrials L-K	
35	LAECO (m)	Oil & Gas	
36	Fluor (A)	Food	
37	Trust	Building, Roads	
38	Harlow Ind	Building, Roads	
39	Amesbury	Oil & Gas	
40	Highgate & Job	Industrials E-K	
41	Under Walker	Paper, Print, Adv	
42	Br Vin	Industrials A-D	
43	Peak	Industrials L-K	
44	Time	Industrials S-Z	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

Up 100 Points

SHORTS (Under Two Years)

Company	Price	Change
...

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change
...

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change
...

UNDATED

Company	Price	Change
...

INDEX-LINKED

Company	Price	Change
...

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	Price	Change
...

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Heavy falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on Monday. Dealings end October 23. Settlement day October 26. Settlement day November 2. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 22)

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

BREWERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

FINANCE, LAND

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

CINEMA, TV

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

DRAPERY, STORES

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

HOTELS, CATERERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

ELECTRICALS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-K

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

OVERSEAS TRADERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

PROPERTY

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

SHIPPING

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

SHOES, LEATHER

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

TEXTILES

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

TOBACCO

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

INSURANCE

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

LEISURE

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

MINING

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

OIL, GAS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

OVERSEAS TRADERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

PROPERTY

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

SHIPPING

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

SHOES, LEATHER

No.	Company	Price	Change
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No.	Company	Price	Change
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OVERSEAS TRADERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

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PROPERTY

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SHOES, LEATHER

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TEXTILES

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TOBACCO

No.	Company	Price	Change
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OVERSEAS TRADERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

PROPERTY

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

SHIPPING

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

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No.	Company	Price	Change
...

OVERSEAS TRADERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

PROPERTY

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

SHIPPING

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

SHOES, LEATHER

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

TEXTILES

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

TOBACCO

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

OVERSEAS TRADERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

PROPERTY

No.	Company	Price	Change
...

BOOM!

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

8
13

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES



BUSINESS TRAVEL

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Boom for Britain from abroad

Almost £20 billion a year is being spent in this country in a fast-growing industry

Business travel has always been a major source of income for Britain, but the last year has seen the greatest uplift for years. More businessmen and women have been flooding in from abroad, domestic business travel is up, the hotel business is booming and the exhibitions industry has seen a startling growth of nearly a third, its best performance for 10 years.

The uplift is in turn creating an investment surge in hotel building and refurbishment, involving key groups such as Trusthouse Forte, Ladbrooke, Bass's Crest, Queens Moat and Scottish and Newcastle Breweries' Thistle Hotels.

It is the same picture in the emergence of more purpose-built centres for both conferences and exhibitions.

A mid-year assessment by the English Tourist Board listed £196 million worth of new conference and exhibition facilities under construction, with the Birmingham International Convention Centre the biggest scheme at £121 million.

Olympia II, being developed by Earls Court and Olympia, is worth another £45 million. The £13 million English Riviera conference and exhibition centre at Torbay also opened earlier in the year.

As competition grows, business travellers are benefiting from offers of more sophisticated services while, thanks to new systems, their companies can secure more effective control of travel costs.

Business travel centres are increasing in number with a growing fashion for "implants" within companies to cope better with corporate needs. The retail travel agency chains, such as Thomas Cook, Hogg Robinson and Pickfords Travel (the latter now a big contender in the field since it bought Lunn Poly's business travel outlets), have all expanded their business service

interests and have about 17,000 corporate clients.

The surge in demand for business travel services, most noticeable in the present decade, has also benefited the Automobile Association which has been in business travel since 1970.

American Express, the big charge-card company, has been developing its business travel interests with a chain of specialist centres — more than 40 implants within companies — with the emphasis on tailor-made services.

The last time a figure was put on spending by industry and commerce on business travel and entertainment was in 1985 when an American Express survey estimated the total value at £17.4 billion. Subsidies, entertaining and other routine expenses accounted for £12 billion — nearly 70 per cent of this spending.

A new American Express survey suggests that average spending by companies in the past three years had surged by 35 per cent. Among finance directors interviewed, 86 per cent expected the level of spending to continue or accelerate.

Recent research commissioned by Pickfords suggests that £5 billion a year is spent on air fares, rail travel, car hire and accommodation. The

Most hotels can give discounts

bookings are made mainly by secretaries. This has led to some shrewd incentives being offered to secretaries and personal assistants.

Ladbrooke Hotels has launched a scheme under which bonus points are earned each time a booking is made to one of its establishments. The scheme offers half-price and free weekend breaks as the pay-off for the accumulated bonus.



Big draws for business travellers: top, Manchester's G-Mex exhibition centre; above, London's Olympia I, and right, the new the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre

One estimate is that £3.2 billion a year is being spent on bookings made through travel agents specializing in business travel. Yet the American Express survey found that only 23 per cent of companies made all their bookings through their travel agent.

Agents were used for 90 per cent of air-ticket purchases but only 12 per cent of hotel bookings, yet American Express claims it has arrangements for substantial discounts off advertised hotel rates around the world.

Hotel and car-hire discounts are to be had from other specialist business travel agencies but most hotels will offer corporate rates and it is becoming increasingly common for companies to have volume discount arrangements with big hotel chains and the larger car rental companies.

Business visitors from abroad, whether coming for business deals, company discussions or to attend key conferences and exhibitions, spent £1.517 billion in the UK in 1986 — 28 per cent of all foreign tourism spending in the country. It was a markedly greater proportion than in the previous year, when business spending represented 23 per cent of overall international spending in the UK.

Surprisingly, too, the number of overseas business visitors rose from marginally more than 3 million to 3.22 million last year. It meant growth had gone on despite the effects of the scares that year over terrorism and the Chernobyl disaster.

Business travellers from abroad have for some time been accounting for about a fifth of international tourists

coming into the UK with the proportion gradually rising.

Last year, business travellers at 23.4 per cent accounted for a bigger proportion of international arrivals. Part of the reason was that, overall, overseas visitor totals had dropped but the extent of the increase seems to indicate a strengthening of the underlying business traveller trend.

Increasing investment in Britain by overseas companies also means more business visitors coming in from abroad as executives fly in on familiarization and liaison trips. Japanese faces are an increasingly familiar sight, especially in Wales and American accents among business executives around the country have become even more common from Scotland's "silicon glen" and the North Sea oil centres to new technology

development areas such as the M4 corridor.

Foreign visitors are an important element in Britain's exhibitions industry which saw spending on exhibitions last year jump to £258 million from £192 million in 1985.

London tends to be a strong

Regional centres 'still a big draw'

attraction for the foreign visitor and this can be a factor for international exhibitions — and conferences — in choosing their venues. But regional centres can still be a big draw, the most potent example being the Motor Show, the biggest single regular event in the British exhibition calendar, which is staged at the National Exhibition Centre, in Birmingham.

Last year the NEC's share of total spending on exhibitions rose from 35 per cent to 41 per cent, putting it marginally ahead of Earls Court and Olympia, which usually claim the number one position. The NEC surged forward, partly because of the effect of the biennial Motor Show taking place last year.

The growth in exhibition spending, traced by the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA), has come as more exhibition space has come on stream around the country including two big new venues, Glasgow's Scottish Exhibition Centre and G-Mex in the refurbished former Manchester Central Station.

London will soon gain more exhibition space with the expected opening at the beginning of next year of the rebuilt Alexandra Palace, which will add 100,000 sq ft under a new

translucent roof at the great hall of the 114-year-old building which was devastated by fire in 1980.

By 1990, a second Earls Court exhibition hall is expected to open its doors, putting another 175,000 sq ft on to the market.

If Britain is to continue to attract more business travellers as much will depend upon the ability of the conference and exhibitions industry to develop events of international stature as upon industrial and commercial growth.

There is increasing competition from the continent, where public sector cash is more freely available to meet the heavy capital expenditure costs involved in new exhibition and conference facilities.

Derek Harris:
Industrial Editor

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Service takes off for airline users

Air travellers may spend much of their time 30,000 feet off the ground, but the fiercest battle for their custom is being fought back on terra firma.

Such has been the flurry of in-flight service refinements aimed at the business traveller in recent years that the pampered frequent flyer is now likely to take largely for granted the pre-take-off champagne cocktail, free toiletry kit, hot towels and extra legroom associated with full-fare tickets.

Airlines vying to stay ahead of the pack are now turning their attention increasingly to perks on the ground in an effort to secure customer loyalty. Hotel check-in desks, free car parking, complimentary airport transfers — be it by helicopter, limousine or train — and car rental discounts now top the list of popular extras.

This acknowledgement that air travel is about door-to-door journeys rather than hops between international airports concedes that the main shortcomings of international travel remain on the ground. Advance seat selection, separate check-ins and



Luxury for the traveller: Heathrow's terminal 4 executive lounge, and above, one of British Caledonian's much-publicized door-to-door limousines

Out of the scrum on a positive note

priority baggage handling tags have done much to alleviate airport hold-ups for first and business class passengers.

Those carrying a high percentage of business travellers are now less likely to abandon their charges the moment they touch down, however. In-flight polish can be quickly forgotten around a slow and crowded luggage carousel, and whisking full-fare passengers away from the scrum with free city transfers at least helps ensure that carrier and customer part company on a positive note.

Airlines are also increasingly keen to see that the exclusivity of their elite business passengers is underlined immediately before boarding. Most now provide airport

"club" lounges — peaceful havens in which to relax with free drinks and newspapers — and feel these far outweigh the gifts and gimmicks with which customers have been showered in the past.

Club entry qualifications vary, and few carriers permit their business class ticket holders to use the lounges freely. British Airways' \$5,000 executive club members pay a yearly fee of £25 in return for access to 120 owned or affiliated lounges worldwide. British Caledonian's Chieftain club stipulates a minimum of £10,000 spent on yearly travel while British Midland's new Diamond club, in common with some continental airline schemes, exchanges perks and free gifts for points gained per flight. Pan Am runs paid-membership Clipper club lounges, though first and business class passengers enjoy free valet parking at Heathrow and a private airport terminal in New York.

American airlines, less constrained by the taxman's hand than their British counterparts, are free to reward their loyal customers with yet more perks.

While such schemes are strictly speaking not open to passengers in Britain, frequent travellers who can provide a US mailing address may certainly benefit.

In the meantime there is no shortage of other tempting air

travel deals. Some newer trans-Atlantic carriers have not only scrapped first class cabins in favour of more business class seating, but now offer full-fare passengers a free matching economy sector ticket for use at a later date every time they fly. Others seeking to iron out the remaining crinkles in international travel have assembled a perks package — of which the Qantas Business Bonus scheme is an excellent example — covering extras ranging from office

related bills anywhere in the world. Unveiled in June, and still awaiting blessing from IATA, is another product aimed at fulfilling the business traveller's needs: the B-Pex ticket. Geared to the needs of the budget traveller, it will allow executives to buy business or economy class tickets only 72 hours ahead of departure with a hefty reduction in published fares.

Perks package to iron out crinkles

rental schemes to pre-departure accommodation.

Airline rivalry may have shifted largely to the ground, but the quest to enhance service in the air has far from run out of steam. In-flight telephones will soon be the norm on most intercontinental flights while some carriers are already promising in-flight computers and other business aids.

One useful new service innovation aimed specifically at frequent flyers is the AirPlus expense charge card. Launched this summer by 13 European airlines as an answer to similar schemes operating in the US, the card enables holders to settle airline, hotel, car hire and other travel-



Hotels book the money people

Derek Harris reports on an important winner for the innkeepers — at a price

Business travellers account for virtually half the number of people who book into British hotels and they are even more important in the profits arithmetic of the business because, staying usually at peak week-day nights, they tend to pay nearest to the full rates at a hotel, writes Derek Harris.

Even big companies, with many employees out on the road, when they do make a corporate deal with a hotel chain will probably get, at most, a 15 per cent discount off the full rates (known in the business as "rack rates"); a 10 per cent discount is more common.

At hotels which cater mostly for business travellers it is common for them to be three quarters reliant on such visitors for their overall trade. This is why facilities helpful to the business traveller are increasingly being built into the service at such hotels, from quick check-in and check-out systems to health and exercise clubs.

Most of the big hotel chains have expansion and refurbishment programmes aimed at the business travel market. Among them are Trusthouse Forte, Britain's biggest hotelier, whose new building programme is bringing in at least three new hotels a year, Ladbrooke, which recently bought Hilton Hotels, Bass's Crest, Queens Moat, Swallow Hotels and Scottish and Newcastle Breweries' Thistle chain.

A mid-year analysis by the English Tourist Board of hotel investment identified 12 new English hotel openings in the first six months of this year, with another 34 under construction — more than £200 million in capital investment overall.

American-based hotel chains are increasingly moving into the UK, including Holiday Inns, Hyatt and Sheraton, all able especially to capitalize on the renewed influx of American travellers into this country. Underlying these trends is the growth in the business travel market to

Horwath, the specialist hotel consultants. That compared with 42.4 per cent in 1985. Conference delegates accounted for 7.5 per cent in 1986 and government officials another 1 per cent.

What has also underpinned optimism in the hotel industry is that the amount actually earned per room rose by 13 per cent on average and 10 per cent in London, according to Horwath and Horwath.

Trusthouse Forte, which has 239 hotels in Britain and another 800 abroad, believes leisure facilities at hotels are becoming increasingly im-

portant to business people. In Britain 20 of its hotels especially catering for business traffic, which includes much of the Posthouse chain, now have fitness and leisure centres and these are being built into new hotels recently opened or planned.

In luxury hotels, the executive floor, catering for senior executives, is emerging as an increasingly popular innovation but Trusthouse Forte was early into that development with its Crown Club at Grosvenor House in London's Park Lane. The club was an award this year for the best business facilities in the UK.

For the club there are separate checking in and out facilities, a butler-receptionist, a separate lounge and a full battery of office services. It is popular with British executives although rather more than half the clientele has been coming from overseas including the United States, wooed by the club's restrained elegance.

At the other end of the scale, Trusthouse Forte has been exploring a low-budget market for the business traveller with its lodges attached to Little Chef roadside restaurants. These offer a room for £19.50 a night. So far there are 16 lodges around the country, with another four due to open by the end of the year and ten more by the late spring of next year.

Corporate charge cards, often carrying privileges like guaranteed bookings as well as offering corporate discounts, have been launched by a number of the hotel chains. Trusthouse Forte has its Gold Card and Thistle's Trumpcard, one of the earliest launched, cuts the total hotel bill by 10 per cent as well as offering other benefits like priority room allocations and express check-out.

Thistle's card also cuts the bills for the business traveller when on an individual leisure trip.

*United Kingdom Hotel Industry 1987: £25 from Horwath and Horwath, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA.

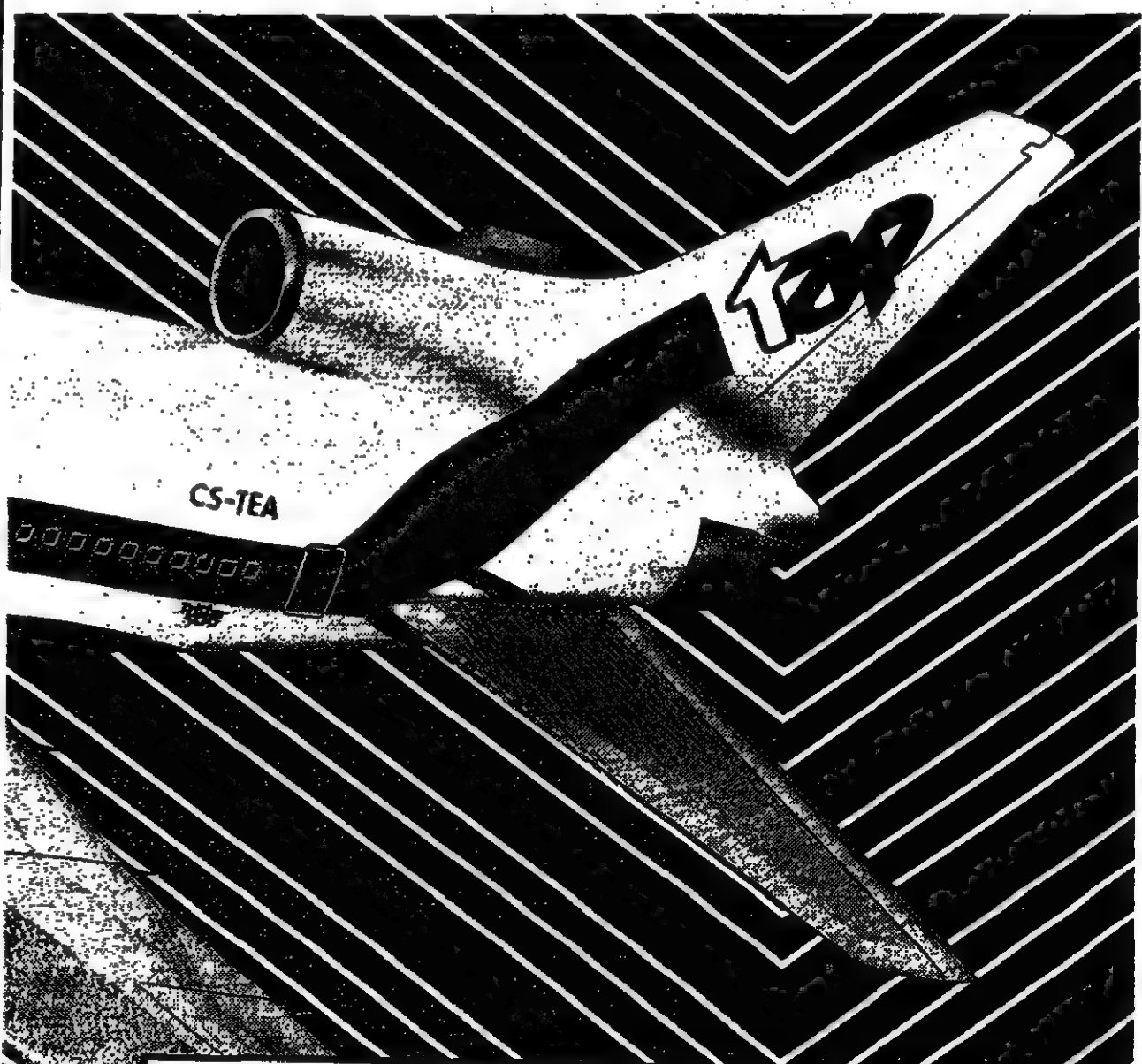
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FOCUS

BUSINESS TRAVEL/3

Profits? BR says it's getting there

Japan has its bullet-fast Shinkansen, France has its sleek Train Grande Vitesse and Germany has its super-efficient Bundesbahn, writes *Marion Cotter*. Britain's answer to these formidable transport giants is British Rail, which admits it is still busy getting there.

Britain's oft-criticized rail system is at least now getting there faster than most people think. InterCity services celebrated their 21st birthday this year at a time which could hardly be more appropriate. Its public grants will be whisked away next April, leaving the division rooted firmly in the real commercial world and briefed to turn years of operating losses into profit.

This monumental task has fixed BR's attention firmly on the revenue source it sees as having the most powerful growth potential: business travel. While executives on the move already provide more than one-third of InterCity's £630 million annual income, the division is now pushing hard to get more business executives out of cars and on to trains through a series of innovations to slant its image upwards.

Plans to tempt more high earners to abandon their

heavily against Anglo-Scottish air links. Though the rail system commands only 15 per cent of this market, the sleepers are set to carry half a million passengers this year and undoubtedly hold an edge over the shuttle for people attending early morning meetings.

In another push towards more streamlined rail travel, InterCity is energetically marketing its Executive Ticket package. Aimed at encouraging customers to book seats in advance, it includes a two-way, first-class seat reservation, 24-hours free car parking and a voucher for breakfast or dinner on board for just £4 more than an ordinary first-class ticket.

BR is in the throes of extending its computerized seat-reservation service with the travel trade and plans to test-market free seat reservations in the North-East from January.

Railway catering services are also undergoing a metamorphosis in the bid to overturn BR's outdated image as a provider of little but card-board rolls and mature sandwiches. Cuisine 2000, launched in February, features better station fast-food outlets at stations, more innovative on-board cuisine and a popular trolley service in standard carriages.

Other changes are following thick and fast. New fare structures have increased demand for off-peak travel and thus eased the pressure on seats at peak business-journey times.

Most Pullman trains now have telephones installed and all InterCity services should carry Phonocard booths within nine months. Credit cards can be used to make calls on BR's Gatwick Express, which uses Rental hardware.

VIP business charters are proving to be another successful means of turning InterCity's resounding losses (£99 million last year) to profit. Companies hiring their own trains for the day poured £4.5

Sprucing up the Pullman trains

wheels include slick Filofax-style timetables and a new InterCity logo.

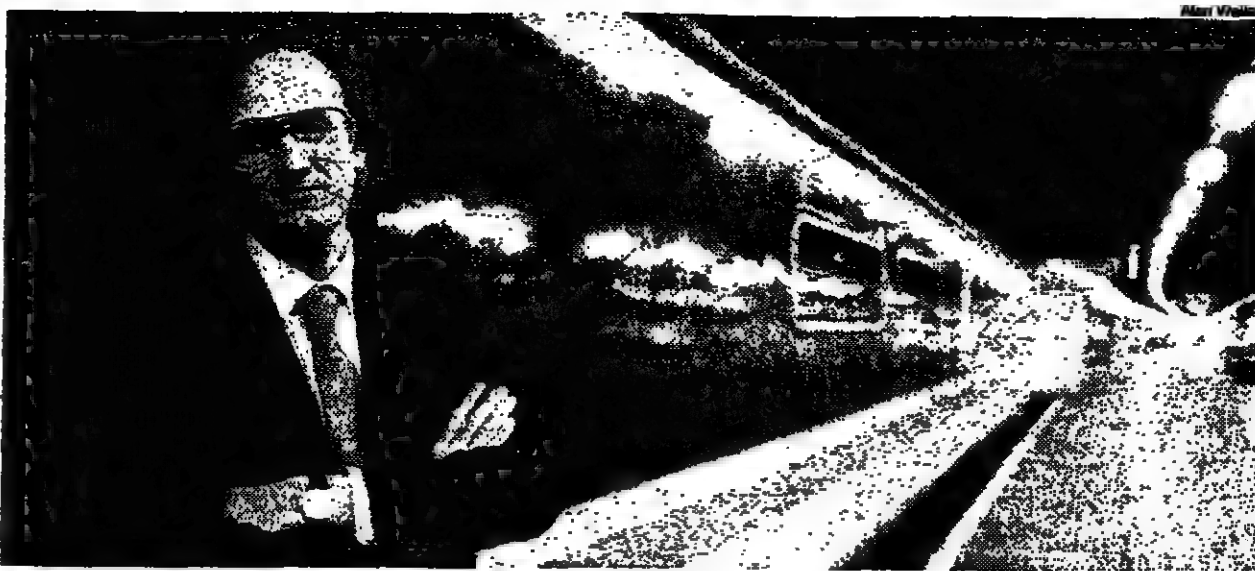
InterCity marketing chiefs have also poached a few ideas from the airlines. Club-type Pullman lounges are open at several mainline stations for first-class passengers, offering a pastel-coloured haven from the bustling main concourse. These have proved so popular that carryings on BR's Newcastle routes rose by 30 per cent almost overnight when the concept was launched.

Still more dynamic and undoubtedly set to increase BR's hard-core business travellers is InterCity's planned "frequent flyer" club, which will recognize and reward loyal customers.

The division's national marketing manager, Robert Mason, recently toured the US to study airline frequent-user programmes and a package of ideas is now being assembled for BR. This, says Mr Mason, "should influence customers' travel decisions by recognizing their importance and showing we care".

InterCity is also sprucing up its fleet of Pullman trains operating on prime business traffic routes. Geared to coincide with peak business travel hours, they feature more first-class coaches, softer seats, a wider menu choice and a higher ratio of staff. The refurbished Pullmans — operating at no extra cost to travellers — have been phased into the network over the last two years. Several more will enter service during 1988.

Also newly revamped are BR's sleepers, which compete



Robert Mason, InterCity marketing manager: BR recognizes the customer's importance — and is showing it cares

Full speed ahead for car-rental firms

Business travel accounts for nearly 60 per cent of Britain's £300 million a year car-rental market, writes *Derek Harris*. The industry believes that business travel, estimated to have risen by about 10 per cent last year, will show an even greater increase by the end of this year — and that growth prospects beyond that are good. Last year, car rental overall was hit by the sharp decline in the number of visiting tourists, especially from the US, but the business-travel sector largely shrugged this off.

Bill Dix, marketing director of Avis Europe, said: "Primarily the car-rental market is business travel-driven and business travellers now represent a very buoyant market." At Swan National Rentals, Tony Grimshaw, managing director, said: "The improvement in the UK economy has benefited the car-rental industry as companies recruit more staff and provide them with cars."

Business travel growth in Britain is if anything rather stronger than in the rest of Europe, according to Mr Dix. Avis has particularly benefited from the growth in business travel by air.

Hertz, which like Avis is a multinational operation based in the US, and Europcar, the French-based operator which in Britain includes Godfrey Davis, have also reaped the rewards of substantial representation at airports. Europcar's British locations, now numbering about 280, also include offices at more than 80 BR mainline stations.

Budget Rent A Car, another US-based company which is almost wholly a franchised operation, has been making a bid for the lucrative airport traffic. Budget's strategy includes offering of prestige cars such as Mercedes-Benzes at rentals nearer those charged by many competitors for more production cars. Other operators, notably Hertz and Avis, believe that service is more important

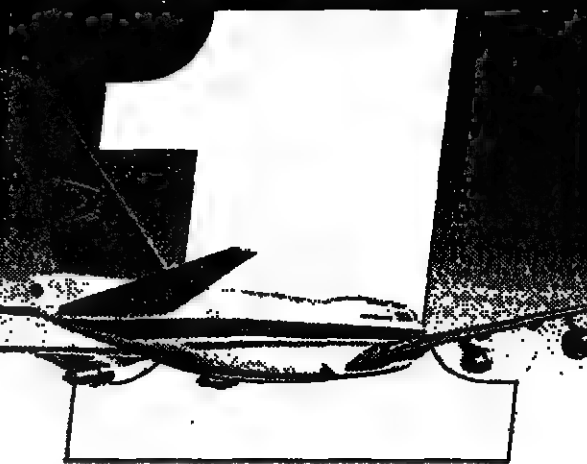
than price. While admitting that value for money is important, Avis says its surveys have shown that business travellers look more to reliability, convenience, good reservation and billing systems and quality of service.

Hertz and Avis are the two biggest car-renters internationally, but in Britain Europcar and Swan National are the leading operators. Seventy per cent of Swan's trade is attributed to British business travel. One Swan National innovation is a booking system for more than 700 hotels around the country in a wide price range.

While all the bigger car-renters, including Kimmings, have been increasing their share of the national car-rental business, the small independents — typically the garage around the corner — still account for about half the market. But the large operators are gradually eating into this sector.

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What sort of person prefers to travel InterCity?



"I feel an epoch-making thought coming on"

Archimedes sank back into the welcoming upholstery of the 1730 Pullman from London to Newcastle.

He felt the tension of the week fall away as he slowly took ice cubes out of his gin and tonic, occasionally nodding to himself and writing notes about the displacement of liquid.

Further down the train, René Descartes dropped his Times crossword and smiled reflectively at the liveried waiters as they served his Fillet of Sole Maître D'Hôtel and Macon Villages.

Pythagoras, at the next door table, gazed raptly out of the window at the countryside, whistling past his window at 125mph, occasionally doodling triangles on his napkin.

The relaxed and patrician figure of Isambard Kingdom Brunel stole a glance over Pythagoras' shoulder, gasped with the air of a man whose mind had suddenly been given an electric shock, and started furiously drawing plans of the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

The civilised quiet of the train was suddenly shattered by a cry from the far end of the carriage.

"Eureka" cried Archimedes.

"I've got it" muttered Pythagoras "The square on the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides."

"Cogito ergo zoom" whispered Descartes to his ever attentive waiter.

"I'm sorry sir?"

"I think, therefore I travel InterCity" explained Descartes.

INTERCITY



"Shan't be long" — the phone on BR's Pullmans is popular

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BUSINESS TRAVEL/4

FOCUS

● Schiphol has never been slow to market itself: when the question of a third airport for London was raised some years ago, the Amsterdam airport presented itself as the answer. The campaign faded, but Schiphol still offers new ideas, such as this car shop: the merchandise is duty-free



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Down to earth for duty-free sprees

Opportunities to snap up duty-free bargains rank highly among the perks of foreign travel, writes *Marion Cotter*. And selling duty-free is a big source of income for the world's airports: a key tool in their efforts to boost passenger throughput.

Without duty- and tax-free sales, airline user charges, and hence the cost of flying, would be higher.

Merchandise displayed at glossy airport shopping centres may well be sold free of duty, but it is hardly free of profit. Some consumer watchdog organizations have accused the shopkeepers of abusing their monopoly by fleecing customers in selling goods at high-street prices and pocketing excessive profits.

Duty- and tax-free prices differ widely. One recent survey found that while perfumes sold at Athens and Amsterdam airports yielded 40 per cent savings on usual retail prices, brands on sale in Lisbon were no cheaper.

Far Eastern airports consistently score well in the duty-free shopping league. Even Moscow's cheerless Sheremetyevo airport could soon be cashing in on more duty-free business following a likely deal with Ireland's Aer Rianta, whose Shannon Airport centre turns over \$20million a year.

Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport duty-free complex, voted the world's number one place to shop by 30,000 frequent

fliers polled this summer by the International Foundation of Airline Passengers Associations, knocked both Singapore and London Heathrow into the runner-up slots.

Schiphol's 2,300 sq m of shops chalk up almost Dfl.1 million a day.

A feature possibly unique to Schiphol is the selling of tax-free cars. ShipSide World on Wheels sells incoming passengers around 1,000 models a year, ranging from Minis to Rolls-Royces. Buyers can expect to save up to 50 per cent.

Frankfurt's main concourse houses more than 100 shops including supermarkets and a branch of Harrods. Paris scores well as a place to buy compact and reflex cameras, while Zurich and Geneva are well-stocked with watches.

Some of the world's best duty-free buys can be had at Dubai, which stocks 25,000 different items. Goods range from teabags to gold bars. The airport's four million passengers a year spend an average of \$25 per shop — which the airport claims should buy roughly three times the merchandise of a similar spree at Heathrow. Predicted sales this year total \$50 million.

The airport also boasts an arrivals duty-free store, a feature matched by only a handful of other airports including Reykjavik, Cairo and Singapore's Changi airport.

One passenger in three uses the duty-free shops at Heath-

row and Gatwick, helping to pour £88 million last year into the coffers of the operator, the British Airports Authority. The sum is by far the biggest slice of its income from the concession business.

Prices are claimed to average 40 per cent below high-street levels.

Buying duty-free in-flight is another option for travellers. Most would agree that airline stocks are limited and prices often higher than on the ground, though this month's move by one enterprising small carrier could mark a step in the right direction.

Luton-based Air Foyle plans to eschew profits on its duty-free liquor sales and charge travellers only two per cent more than the bulk purchase price — a gesture unlikely to be copied by rivals.

Neither airlines, travellers nor the job-generating tobacco and spirit industries view with relish the approach of 1992, when the EEC plans to remove frontier taxes for intra-Community trade, thus putting a stop to sales of duty-free to travellers moving between EEC states.

Once this goal is achieved, Europe's duty-free industry is set to contract dramatically.

Britain's newly formed Duty Free Council is pledged to stave off the demise of passengers' much-loved perk for as long as possible. But the writing is on the wall

The niggling fears that will go away — if you pay

Being pressed for proof of ability to pay for medical treatment in a foreign hospital when you are fearing the worst is the fate of many a traveller.

It illustrates the need not only to have adequate insurance cover but to be armed with the means of quickly getting confirmation that hospital bills will be settled.

In the experience of one company set up to ease the ailing traveller's lot, one in 100 travellers will make a claim for a medical problem, six in 100,000 will need repatriation by air ambulance and eight in 100,000 will die abroad.

Europ Assistance, which operates a worldwide emergency service, was the brainchild of Pierre Desnos, a Frenchman who brought his company to Britain in 1973. It was the first of its kind but now has competitors.

Working with the Eagle Star and General Accident insurance companies, it is responsible for the emergency service element of a full business travel scheme.

The annual premium for one person, £130, provides cover of £1 million to take account of medical expenses, repatriation air ambulance, employing replacement staff, replacing lost documents and baggage and other expenses.

Where a company has a number of employees making occasional trips abroad, a special travel scheme can be offered at a lower premium.

A company spokesman said: "We have agents worldwide and if a person was ill in some obscure hospital in the middle of nowhere and the hospital didn't accept any kind of guarantee, we would go there and if necessary pay all expenses on the spot."

Business travellers intending to wind-down pursuing their favourite sport should may insure themselves for such activities as skiing, mountaineering, scuba or even motor-cycling.

The DHSS leaflet, *Medical costs abroad — it pays to be prepared for all ills*, urges business travellers to check their company's insurance policies to see whether the cover offered is adequate.

Travellers to EEC countries need an E111 form which has a note attached explaining how to get emergency medical treatment in a Community country. The leaflet also outlines what you are entitled to in EEC countries and what is available free to UK passport holders in countries outside the EEC.

Points to be remembered are that medical arrangements in the check-list don't cover everything — cover given in some countries is not always as comprehensive as in the UK — and that bringing a person back to the UK in the event of illness or death is never covered under reciprocal arrangements.

Irene Farnsworth

London City lift-off?

successful independent airline — are determined to make London City a success.

The airport's main attraction is that it is close to the heart of London. After a short ride to the airport, passengers will find the kind of facilities usually reserved for an office: telex, telephones, computers and secretaries, relaxing lounge areas designed to enable them to feel as at home in the terminal as they do in their own offices.

The aircraft, all 50-seat de Havilland Dash 7s, will be parked immediately outside the terminal and it is planned that, if necessary,

passengers will be airborne within 15 minutes of arriving at the check-in desk. On board will be hot meals, free drinks, newspapers, twice as many cabin crew as are normally found on a scheduled aircraft and facilities to carry on working, if necessary, while in flight.

The two airlines have also recognized the equal importance of the passenger coming from Europe to London. Brymon has teamed up with Air France, guaranteeing a high public profile and even shared flight numbers, while Eurocity has linked in with Sabena for the same reason.

For foreign business executives,

London City Airport makes even more sense than for their British counterparts. They would, anyway, have to go to the main airport in their own countries but their concern would clearly be to reach their destinations more quickly. And London City's nearness to the centre of London business life is seen as a great advantage.

Flying from London City will not be cheap, however. This is partly because by keeping prices high the airport can concentrate on catering exclusively for the business passenger. Fares will be about the same as Club Class from Gatwick or Heathrow, but it is hoped that being company employees the passengers will not be as price sensitive as leisure travellers.

Harvey Elliott

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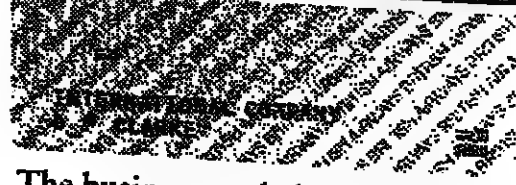
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UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT
By John Young

Giving new zest to Merseyside

After decades of being isolated from the city's daily life, the university is taking its full civic role, determined that Liverpool will go down in history as something more than the home of the Beatles and a remarkable football team

Liverpool can lay claim to be the most misunderstood city in Britain. More often than not, the misunderstanding is of its own making, a self-inflicted wound, with the result that its public image tends to be that of an urban wasteland, its economy destroyed by industrial strife, torn apart by race riots, terrorized by football hooligans and ruled by a bunch of anarchist thugs.

The reality is less catastrophic. The days of its mercantile glory may long be over, but it is still an eminently handsome city with a wealth of glorious architecture to counter the corrugated iron and the vandalized housing estates.

It is a wonderful irony that the recent frantic coverings of the city council took place within its magnificent Georgian town hall, surmounted by the gilded statue of Minerva, Goddess of Wisdom.

Up on the hill, amid the leafy squares and the elegant terraces of the university campus, it is tempting to believe that this is not Merseyside at all and that the dreadful squalor that effected a political conversion in Michael Heseltine six years ago is in another country.

Yet it was only a few blocks away, in the once equally elegant but now shabby streets of Toxteth, that the locals celebrated the wedding of the heir to the throne by hurling bottles, bricks and worse at police vans.

At the time, most people at the university were probably trying to pretend it was not happening or, if it was, that it was nothing to do with them. Robert Nind, the registrar, readily admits that until five years ago the university was relatively isolated from the rest of the community.

But all that is changing decisively. Just as several years ago the city's two bishops decided, not without con-

trovery, that it was time they stepped out from their respective cathedrals and played a more active role in the community, so the university authorities have decided that it must become much more closely linked to the daily life of the city.

Curiously enough, one of the incentives for this change of heart was, according to the vice-chancellor, Professor Graeme Davies, the abolition of Merseyside County Council, which left the region without a unifying authority.

Without any attempt to claim powers outside its jurisdiction, the university has endeavoured to act as a catalyst in bringing various

is, of course, industry and commerce. "It is high time the outside world recognized that the universities are doing much more than they are generally credited with, and that we have a lot to offer in terms of expertise," he says.

Strong links have already been forged with many industries in the area, including big names like Plessey, British Aerospace, the Atomic Energy Authority, BP, ICI and Unilever. The university has a considerable asset in its marine biology station at Port Erin, in the Isle of Man, and it also has one of only six veterinary schools in Britain. A recent open day on sheep care and welfare was attended by more than 300 farmers.

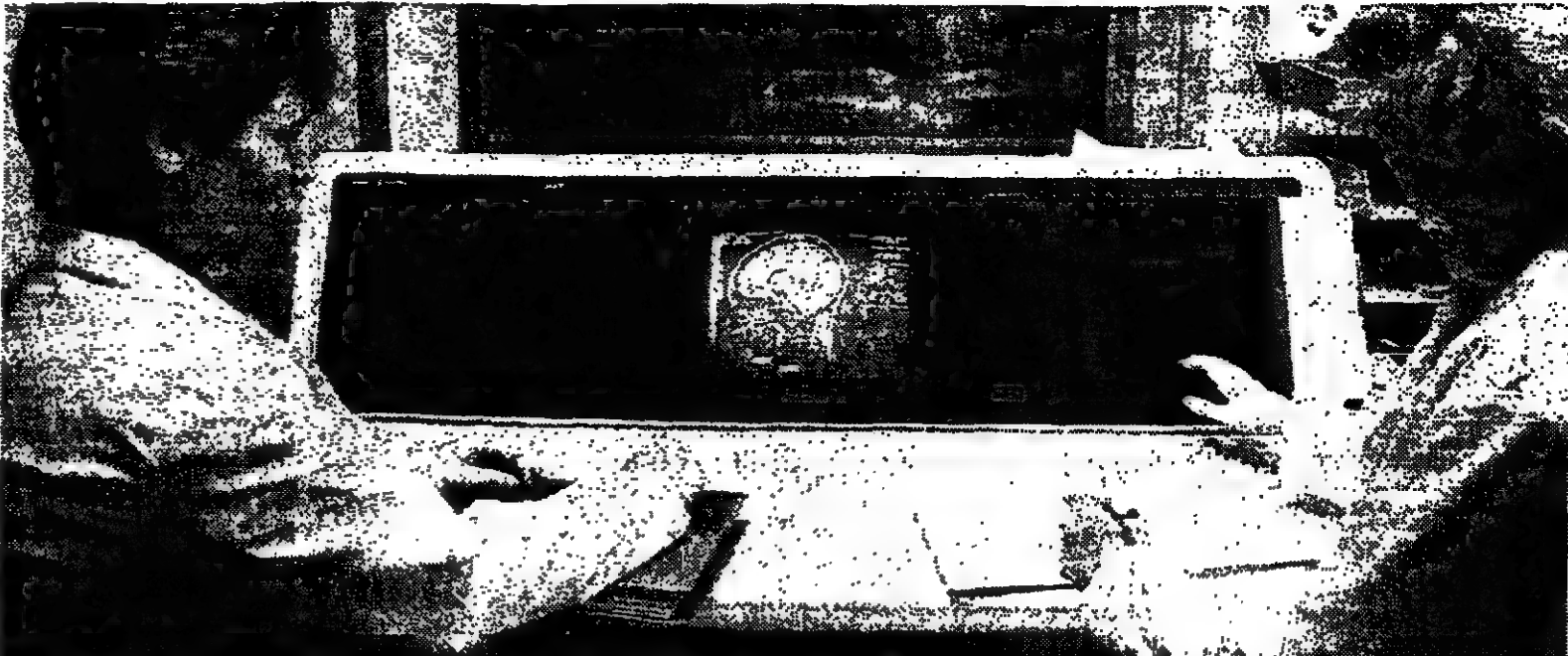
Many companies have settled in Merseyside because of the accessibility of the university's research facilities, Professor Davies claims.

Since the abolition of the county council, it now plays host to the Merseyside Enterprise Forum, which seeks to encourage new business initiatives, and was one of the founders of the Merseyside Innovation Centre.

It is also closely involved with the Wavertree Technology Park and is a subscriber shareholder in the Mersey barrage project. For this, it carried out the feasibility studies, and private funding of some £450 million has since been virtually assured, subject to environmental safeguards.

Professor Davies confesses to a mixture of unease and anger at suggestions by Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, that universities, instead of being cutting in government funding, should be doing more to help themselves. "That's just what a lot of us have been doing for a long time," he says.

To emphasize his point, he cites the university's develop-



The inside story: Roz Savage, chief physiotherapist, and Vicki Hodgson, radiographer, work on the university's MNR spectroscopy

The amazing 'camera' that can look into the detailed workings of the brain

On Wednesday evening last week Professor Richard Edwards, the university's professor of medicine, was clearly an excited and happy man. He had just signed the final agreement establishing the country's first magnetic resonance research centre, which could have dramatic implications for the future of diagnostic medicine.

almost a "fourth dimension". To see a series of pictures beginning with the inside of the back of the head and moving forward so that the facial features like the nose and eyes come gradually into view is quite astonishing.

In layman's terms, it makes ordinary X-ray photographs

£400,000 raised for running costs

The technique employs an immensely powerful magnet to provide detailed and startlingly clear images of the inside of the human body. The most astonishing thing is that it can move through the body, photographing it, as it were, from the inside, so that a picture can be obtained of a brain as seen from the middle of the head.

This is known as spectroscopy and amounts to what is

look like the early days of television. It has the advantage over X-rays also in that there is no evidence of any harmful side effects, so that it can be used to photograph the foetus in the womb.

The Signa MNR system was designed and installed by the General Electric company

of the United States. A total of more than £400,000 has been raised in donations and research grants to pay for the centre's running costs.

These include grants from the North West Cancer Research Fund for the study of tumours; the Health and Safety Executive for research into lumbar disc structure and function in manual workers; the Muscular Dystrophy Group for development of techniques for characterizing tissues; and the Marilyn Houlton MIND Research Trust for developing techniques for photographing the spinal cord.

The centre will be used for research rather than routine diagnosis, but Professor Edwards points out that less elaborate and costly versions of MNR are available and could be installed in hospitals for everyday examinations.



Our great strength is our perceived independence and neutrality

Professor Graeme Davies, vice-chancellor

organizations together and in promoting new initiatives. "Our great strength is our perceived independence and neutrality," Professor Davies says. A New Zealander by birth, he is about as far from the caricature ivory-towered academic as would be possible to imagine.

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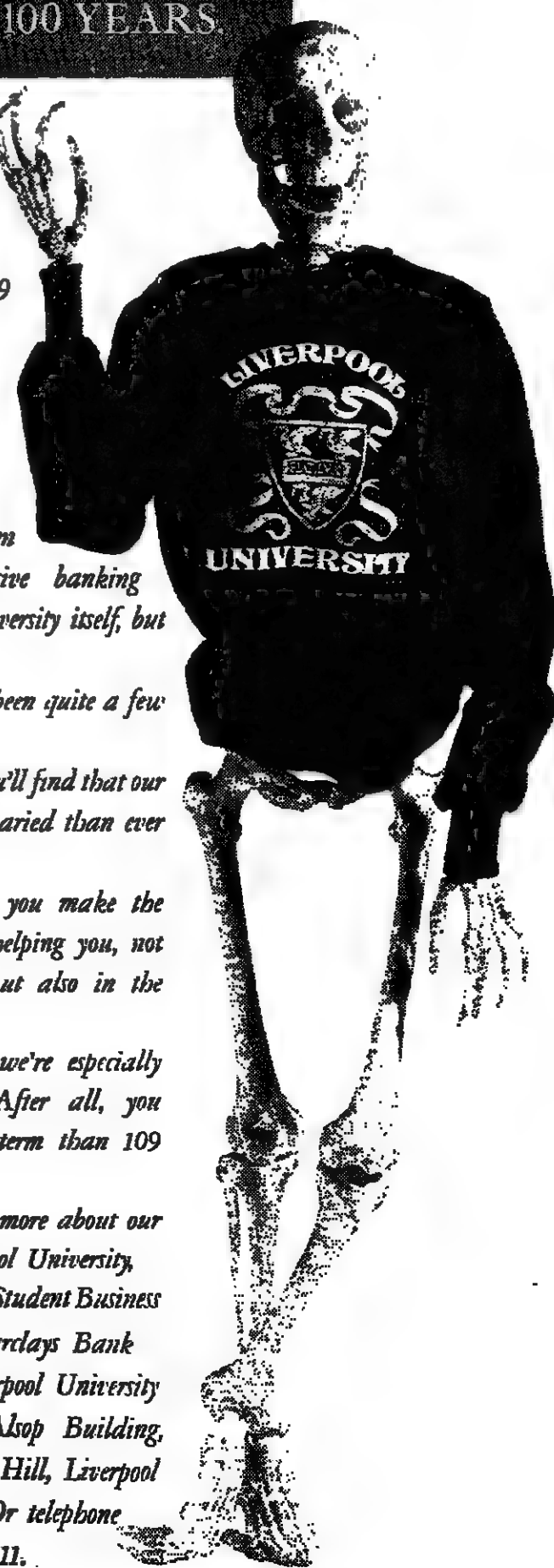
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QUOTATION:

"We were very pleasantly surprised"

SOURCE:

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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Engraved with loving care

By Ian A. Jack

Purists might say Fiona Young has done few of the things which prudent business people are supposed to do. She has had no business plan, no market research, no loans, no grants and very little advertising. But her shrewdness and artistic skill — plus a dentist's drill — have produced work that graces the homes of Princess Anne, the Thatchers and Roy Jenkins.

Fiona works in one of Scotland's smallest workshops in the Cairn valley at Stirling, engraving crystal glass — "everything from a decanter to the smallest flower vase," she says.

Fiona, now 49, was born in Ipswich, though a Scottish mother sent her north to study domestic science in Edinburgh. She followed that with a secretarial course and employment. It was some years afterwards when she became interested in a creative career and by then she was living at Tipperdaroch, her farmhouse home, 12 miles from Stirling.

She first tried her hand at scrapboard notecards. "They kept me amused but little else," she recalls. "Four years ago I went into glass. I've always liked glass, but not until I started did I realize that people actually wanted it engraved."

She began to tour village craft fairs selling her early work. Then the market found her and people began to ask for special orders. Finally she stopped going to the fairs. "I'm just too busy," she says. "I don't advertise. I don't sell to shops but work keeps flowing in."



Fiona Young: Thatchers have bought her engraved mugs

She produces her engraving work in a tiny, ground floor room of the farmhouse — the farm itself is let — using a microelectronic dentist's drill with a diamond burr which cost her £500.

She usually works five hours a day, "but I enjoy the benefits of flexi-time. If I want to spend a day at, say, the Open Golf, as I did this summer, I work harder

the previous day or in the evening when I come back."

She added: "I try not to have a backlog and although I prefer a month's notice for a special order some people ring 24 hours beforehand and expect you to produce — and I usually do."

Mrs Thatcher and husband Denis each have two engraved tumblers by Fiona Young, presented to them on a visit to Stirling. Princess Anne has tumblers, too, ordered from Fiona by a friend.

She is currently working on 22 liquor decanters for Grosvenor House in London where one of her two daughters is food and beverage co-ordinator. Since she also operates a postal service, her engraved glass has a habit of turning up in Australia, New Zealand and America.

She is a member of the Scottish Craft Centre with work on show in their premises on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, and a member of the Trossachs Tourist Board, which distributes her cards to hotels, that, and a sign at the end of her drive, is the limit of self-promotion.

She has just turned a disused hay silo into a showroom, which she designed herself.

She says she now achieves a regular £15,000 a year turnover from the customers who write, phone or simply drive up to the showroom. "I love the challenge of each piece of work," she says. "And I love the feeling, too, that you never know who's going to come up the road next."

BRIEFING

■ Exchange rate uncertainties have been added to skill shortages as problems for small firms which otherwise are reporting full order books and signalling a steady growth in manufacturing, writes Derek Harris. This is the latest picture from the Confederation of British Industry's smaller firms council which reports increasing concern about exchange rate fluctuations.

One maker of lubricants had seen exports drop from 35 per cent of sales to 10 per cent after fluctuations against the pound by the United States and Australian dollars. A footwear components manufacturer, who exports 30 per cent of his production, said he was worried that he could be hit by exchange rate movements.

But service industries are becoming more involved in exports. Some British hairdressing schools are opening offshoots in the US and Europe and a firm specialising in redundancy counselling has set up in The Netherlands. An aspect of the currently healthy environment for smaller businesses is that they are buying an increasing amount of capital goods. But some needs are still having to be met from abroad because the requisite equipment is not produced in Britain.

■ An Enterprise 87 franchise and business opportunity exhibition is to be

staged at the Leeds Exhibition Centre on November 21 and 22 following similar events at Birmingham and Brighton earlier this year. The venue is an appropriate choice as Yorkshire is a northern stronghold of franchising.

Franchise businesses in search of franchisees will be showing what they have to offer with investment levels for franchisees ranging from £1,500 to £50,000 or more. A number of free seminars are being arranged covering franchising, licensing, distribution, agencies and other self-employment opportunities. Various organizations and companies will be offering advice and start-up finance.

■ Contact the organizers: Acumes, 865 Ringwood Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire, BN11 8LW; phone (0202) 581122.

■ Oxfords, formed to encourage key purchasing organizations in Oxfordshire to use local county sources for their needs, was launched this week. It is a new venture by the Thames Business Advice Centre, a local enterprise agency, to stimulate small businesses in the county. A database will be used to put purchasers and likely suppliers in contact. If it proves a success it is hoped it can be used as a blueprint for similar ventures elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

■ Contact: Thames Business Advice Centre, eighth floor, Seacourt Tower, West Way, Oxford OX2 0JP; (0865) 249278.

MR FRIDAY



"That's what always nags me — is having to wait 7 days a week a sign of success or failure?"

■ Tottenham Enterprise Centre, a joint venture by J. Sainsbury, Britain's biggest grocer, and the London borough of Haringey, is offering accommodation for small businesses including shops, studios and workshops in a converted Sainsbury supermarket in High Road, Tottenham. Contact: Janet Coleing, manager, at 01-803-3641 or Lenta Properties, Tottenham Enterprise Centre, 550-558 High Road, London N17 9TA.

Bishop's move on conservation front

The Bishop's Manor House at Howden, on the M62 between Leeds and Hull, is a once derelict 14th century building which was the great hall of a Benedictine manor. Now restored at a cost of over £500,000 by the Monument Historic Buildings Trust, it has been designed specifically for commercial use for a company or public body, and combines modern facilities with the original features.

It is on the shortlist for the 1987 RICS/The Times Conservation Awards to be announced on October 26, and is for sale at around £250,000 through the Yorkshire and London offices of Hambers, and Deane, Son and Hartley of Leeds.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Two enormous developments proposed for the City of London and its fringes demonstrate the continuing confidence and apparently insatiable demand — in the future of the area.

The estate division of Prudential Portfolio Managers has won approval from the Corporation of London's planning and communications committee for the development of a three-acre site by Mincing Lane.

The site, currently comprising five

buildings, will provide more than 500,000 square feet of offices in three buildings, worth over £400 million on completion, and will be arranged around a central glazed piazza. The Court of Common Council will give final consideration to the development on October 22.

An even bigger development is planned on a five-acre site near the Royal Mint, east of Tower Bridge by Skanska, Sweden's largest construction company, jointly with the Whitbread International Group. They have purchased the site from the London Docklands Development Corporation and have applied for full planning consent for a mixed-use development of about 1.1 million square feet.

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I could live with this latest Mazda and be content whatever the journey. Prices range from £8179 for the 1800 LX saloon to £12,949 for the 2000i GT coupé.

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The test car was fitted with the optional power steering costing £225. I found it gave no much assistance at the expense of "road feel" and made the car "twicky". Power assisted Montegos have

been like that for some time. I am surprised Austin Rover have still not carried out the simple modification necessary to reduce the amount of assistance and restore "feel".

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British invite applications for 1996 Olympic Games

By John Goodbody

The British Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday invited cities to host the 1996 Olympic Games, the centenary of the first modern Games in Athens. The Association is writing immediately to local authorities asking for official applications by the end of the year.

Prospective sites will be inspected early in 1988 and a vote on the British candidates will follow, probably in May. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will make its decision in September, 1990. Athens and Toronto have already announced their intentions to host the event.

Birmingham, unsuccessful in its bid for the 1992 Games, which will be staged in Barcelona, is hoping to get the nomination again.

Dick Palmer, the General Secretary of the BOA, said after the annual general meeting at the Café Royal yesterday: "We have three choices: not to invite cities to apply; secondly to give Birmingham the automatic go-ahead and, finally, to allow other cities to seek the nomination. We chose the third option."

The representatives from Birmingham, led by Denis Howell, the former Minister for Sport, have already been interviewed by

Association officials, who have also had informal indications that Manchester may again be interested.

Charles Palmer, the Association's chairman, said Birmingham thought it should be re-appointed, partly because it considers it has the best bid but also to capitalize on its investment.

Birmingham spent £2.3 million on publicizing its bid for 1992 but the city's advisors say it has already received £5 million worth of international publicity. Once again it will base its application, which only received eight votes in the second round of balloting for the 1992

Games, on the National Exhibition Centre, emphasizing the convenience of the athletes and ease of transport.

The BOA's interest in considering applications for the 1996 Games shows its determination to hold the event, which it last staged in 1948 in London.

After massive amounts of money spent by rival candidates on seeking nominations for the 1992 Games, the IOC is to restrict the lavish expenditure. Birmingham has already been awarded the 1991 IOC session but some see this as compensation for failing to get the nomination for 1992 rather than as a pointer for future approval to stage the Games.

The session, unfortunately, will also take place after the voting has been completed so not giving all the 89 IOC members the opportunity of seeing for themselves the splendid facilities which are already in place.

Athens is clear favourite for nostalgic reasons but Greece has not been the most politically stable country in the recent past and another right-wing coup similar to the late 1960's could scupper its chances.

Britain will also have the advantage of possessing in Dick Palmer, a man who has worked for the IOC solidarity programme. But yesterday he announced that he had decided to return full time with the BOA.

Lyle in position for another of his great escapes

By Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent

Sandy Lyle will hope this morning to complete another great escape in the Suntory World Match Play Championship at Wentworth, where torrential rain forced play to be suspended yesterday.

Lyle had fought his way back on the West Course from four down at lunch to be all square against David Ishii before the heavens opened and the match was brought to a halt with six holes remaining.

Valiant but vain attempts were made to sweep the water off the greens before the organizers eventually had no alternative other than to bring the players in. The first round will hopefully be concluded this morning, with the second round reduced to 27 holes to help bring the championship back on schedule. It is not entirely satisfactory but, in the circumstances, a firm decision had to be taken.

The spectators who braved the atrocious conditions witnessed a typical recovery from the plegmatic Lyle as he twice pegged back his Hawaiian opponent. "At least I have made a game of it now," Lyle, three times a finalist, said.

All four of the first round matches were halted before they reached the 13th green which was completely flooded. Ian Woosnam, two down at one stage, then led a commanding four holes lead over the American, Sam Randolph, while Severiano Ballesteros and Mark

McNulty were two up on Katsunari Takahashi, of Japan, and Howard Clark.

For Lyle it was nothing new to be pitched into a problematical situation. In 1982 he was six down with 17 holes to play against Nick Faldo but went on to win. This time it was a player who was, until two weeks ago, the leader in the Japanese Order of Merit, who put him on the

Today's tee-off times

FIRST ROUND: (to be completed) Sam M. McNulty (SA) v H. Clark (GB) - McNulty two up after 30 holes; A. Lyle (GB) v D. Ishii (JP) - all square after 30 holes; S. Ballesteros (SP) v K. Takahashi (JP) - Ballesteros two up after 30 holes; I. Woosnam (GB) v S. Randolph (US) - Randolph four up after 30 holes.

SECOND ROUND (over 27 holes): 10.30: McNulty or Clark v G. Norman (Aust); Lyle or Ishii v H. Clark (US); Ballesteros or Takahashi v S. Simpson (US); Woosnam or Randolph v N. Faldo (GB).

TODAY ON TV

Sport on Friday: BBC2, 2.15-5.30 p.m. Highlights 11.10 p.m.

rack. It was all square after the 10th, where Lyle holed from 10 feet for a two, but after that Ishii swooped ahead.

Even though it was then dry, with only a hint of a breeze, the course was still playing extremely long because of the recent wet weather. So Lyle was fully expected to have an advantage, because of his prodigious length off the tee, but Ishii won the 11th and 12th with birdies to go ahead.

Lyle hit a seven iron into a bunker to lose the 13th and was wide of the mark with his five iron tee-shot at the uphill

14th. So Ishii, remarkably, found himself four up and Lyle was far from amused. He launched his revival by winning three of the first four holes in the afternoon. Ishii, however, chipped in from 30 yards at the 23rd for a two and Lyle, once more under pressure, took three putts on the next green and so was three down again.

However, he holed from 15 feet for a birdie at the 25th and Ishii presented him with the next by missing the green with his approach. Then Lyle's eighth iron to five feet provided him with another winning birdie at the 27th.

Woosnam too, initially, struggled against Randolph, being compelled to hole from 15 feet for a birdie at the 17th to reduce his deficit to one at lunch.

He was all square within 10 minutes of the restart when a five iron approach to the 19th bounced off an onlooker and the ball came to rest six feet from the hole.

Woosnam confidently holed out for a birdie and Randolph suddenly slipped behind as his opponent holed putts of 12 feet and six feet at the 23rd and 24th holes for birdies.

Clark twice moved three up on McNulty in the morning but he was pulled back to all square on each occasion. He had an unlikely win at the 18th, holing from 12 feet as his opponent took three putts from 17 feet.



That old feeling: Sandy Lyle shows his disgust as another putt slips by at Wentworth (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Fixtures will be postponed to help England

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The Football League has cleared the way for England in Belgrade next month. The management committee has agreed to postpone all the relevant first division fixtures in the weekend programme before England's decisive European championship qualifying tie against Yugoslavia.

Bobby Robson, who predicted when the draw was made that the "crunch game" would be the sixth and last, immediately stressed to the League the importance of their cooperation. In February, a tacit agreement was reached and yesterday it was confirmed by Graham Kelly, the secretary.

Robson, rewarded for foresight and shared by other British managers, has in turn responded to the amicable arrangement. Although the pools companies have already withdrawn most of the first division matches from their coupons, he will announce his squad in 10 days time, a week earlier than usual.

The decision was crucial. He recalled that six years ago the same dispensation was offered to his predecessor, Ron Greenwood, before a similarly vital World Cup qualifying tie against Hungary. "I could see how sharp the players were and, after five minutes, I told Don Howe that we were going to walk it."

England won 3-0 and subsequently reached the finals in Spain. Robson intends to follow the same path. He plans to assemble the party on the Thursday and travel on the Sunday. "By the Tuesday, they will be fresh," he said. "By the Wednesday, they will be hungry."

They will need to be. Even though England require only a point to be certain of going through, they cannot succumb to the dangerous temptation of playing for a draw. Nor are they likely to. "We will not go there just to defend or just to

Webb or Hoddie? Barnes or Waddle? Mabbutt or no Mabbutt? At least the fear of injury should be less of a factor as he considers his strongest cast.

Dependability is the requirement

From David Miller, Sarajevo

The collection of problems which confront Bobby Robson for next month's European Championship tie in Belgrade, following this week's results here and at Wembley, are no different from those previously expected, merely more accentuated. Does he use, untypically, a sweeper, does he leave out Barnes? In other words, does he defend or attack: play for a draw or go for victory?

Much will depend on Robson's reaction to the information from Mick Wadsworth, the FA's north west regional staff coach, who was here to assess the Yugoslavs, and returned home with the widespread opinion in Europe that they are among the most dangerous of teams. Wadsworth saw a side which attacked often at breathtaking speed, interchanging and passing with a rapidity which could turn even the best defenders - which England do not have.

Belgrade in November will attract managers and coaches from every corner for a match between teams of contrasting styles who, regularly over the years, have produced a fascinating contest when they meet the more direct running of England against the inventive football of the Slavs.

Two outstanding midfield players whom Northern Ireland found difficult to contain, Milutinovic and Radarevic, are likely to be replaced by Stojkovic and Jankovic, both absent on Wednesday, with injury. Elmer will return as sweeper in place of Hadzibegovic, and defensive markers Zorn Vujovic and Radanovic may also be replaced. Though Ireland were never able to test the Yugoslav defence, it will be a more experienced rearguard which will face England.

Wadsworth will probably be advising Robson on two tactical aspects in particular. First, the most potent phase of Yugoslavia's inter-passing, using first time wall passes, is around the penalty area, at which stage the value of the possible sweeper would be a safety factor. Second, the Yugoslav front three seldom dropped back to make contact with their defence. Therefore, if England's midfield can cut off supply, the danger of Zlatov Vujovic and Cvetkovic on the flanks and the explosive Volok at centre-forward could be much reduced.

There was evidence on Wednesday that Yugoslavia's habitual weakness, frustration, could be exploited by an England team playing with discipline. Intelligent organization. What is equally certain is that Volok, Stojkovic and Cvetkovic have the technique to embarrass England's suspect back four. It is not a match for hoping certain players may produce particular qualities, but for using those who are dependable.

Wales will compete against England, Scotland and West Germany in a women's 10,000 metres road race to run in conjunction with the Welsh 10 kilometres road race at Cardiff on Sunday.

Umpires err over screen test

By Simon Barnes

In most press boxes at major sporting events, there is a television. It can be pretty helpful to see the magic moments, the crucial decisions, three or four times over and slowed right down. There is no profit in watching "The man looked run out to me from the top of the Warner Stand" when the slow-mo shows that the man was in and that Dickie Bird had made an inch-perfect decision.

So the reporter will check on the telly. There is no shame in this, no reduction of a cricket correspondent's authority. If something is helpful, you use it. That is only good sense.

When I do my expenses, I use a calculator. Real mathematics are not the province of accountants without having their authority impugned. No-one finds it deeply shameful that a word processor can be rather helpful. I haven't noticed any professional stature being eroded since I started producing more accurately-typed copy.

The devil produces enough problems for us without any need to go looking for them: anyone who does not accept real help when it is offered is plain silly. Why, then, do cricket umpires have this neurosis about television?

When offered a portable television to help with the tricky decisions during the World Cup, Bird reacted as if he had been asked to spend a month in Sodom. Umpires make better decisions without television, he said; the television can be misleading, he said.

Well, let us take his word for it about how decisions, and accept that Richie Bennett's classic "that was pretty close" is as much as the replay can tell you. But that leaves a number of decisions where television can show when the umpire is utterly and unquestionably wrong.

Run outs are the obvious example. Television can show



Bird: rejecting help

you quite definitely whether the man was out or not. Correction. Television can show you quite definitely whether the umpire was right or not. It is awfully difficult for an umpire to keep stumps and crease in view simultaneously: it is rather impressive that the telly shows that umpires are right most of the time.

But sometimes it makes them look like idiots. And one-day cricket is always full of stolen runs and hair-breadth decisions. Money and careers depend on these decisions: if an umpire is 90 per cent accurate, television in these cases is virtually 100 per cent accurate.

There are other incidents that make umpires look fools. I don't suppose television would be much help with dodgy bat-pad decisions, but cricket is forever throwing up weird incidents - and, often enough, incidents that make umpires look silly.

Chris Broad was out last summer, caught behind when the ball hit a bat, quite clearly, was nowhere near a ball. A few years ago there was a terrible row in Australia when Bob Taylor claimed a catch (in all sincerity, I am sure) and the man was out. The slow-mo showed a puff of dust in front of Taylor's gammy leg at the magic moment: clearly, he had scooped it up on the half-volley. Such errors are avoidable.

Umpires insist that television will detract from their authority: I fail to see how increasing your accuracy can possibly decrease anyone's authority. However, when an unjustly-dismissed batsman can see that his bat was grounded as the wicket was broken, and when 10 million watchers can see the same thing, it can only detract from the judge.

If 10 million people have the advantage of the slow-mo, why do the two people who really need it deny themselves? Why are they content to make errors which could be so easily avoided?

In the name of fair play and in the name of good sense, anyone who adjudicates sport at the highest level should take any genuine help that is offered. This cannot detract in any way from the judge: rather, it can only add to his authority.

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A fright for Ballesteros

By Mel Webb

Not a flicker of emotion crossed Katsunari Takahashi's face when he went three up after only eight holes against Severiano Ballesteros in their first round match at Wentworth yesterday. He was as inscrutable as all Japanese are meant to be. Came the afternoon, came the rain, he got wetter and wetter and, what is more, Ballesteros threatened to take control.

It was only then that Takahashi at last allowed himself the luxury of the occasional small smile, and before play was finally suspended, with Ballesteros two up as the pair stood on the 13th tee, the Japanese was ready to talk in his abbreviated English to anybody who wanted to pass the time of day.

Yes, he did like playing in

England. Yes, he did like the reception that had been given him by the English crowd. And no, he didn't mind the weather at all.

A pencil-thin 37-year-old, Takahashi is an engaging character. Wearing trousers that look a size and a half too big for him, he presents a boyish aspect belied by the quality of his golf. With a game based on a willowy, loose-limbed swing, a fine touch round the greens and an obvious leaning towards percentage golf, he could not provide a greater contrast to his opponent, the great mator of world golf.

Which method will prevail is still not clear. But even if he finishes Takahashi off this morning, Ballesteros, the championship favourite, will know he has been in a match.

He was probably convinced of that from the first hole of the day, which he lost to Takahashi's par four. As they approached the turn Ballesteros was three down and up against it. He had had to produce seven birdies to put the match all-square after 14 holes and did not take the lead for the first time until he sank a 10-foot putt for a birdie four on the 17th. It was a lead he was never again to surrender as the morning struck after lunch.

He went two up with a birdie three on the first but despite going to the turn in 33, was cut back to one on the 10th, but immediately hit back with a winning four. Incidentally, Ballesteros's caddy this week is his elder brother Vicente, while Takahashi's younger brother, Seiji, is carrying his bag.

Douglas leads boycott of Top Twelve

Desmond Douglas says he will boycott the Leeds Sigma National Top Twelve table tennis tournament at Farnborough this weekend because 11-up scoring is being used instead of the conventional 21-up (Richard Eaton writes).

Last year, when the event used this experimental scoring system for the first time, Douglas, the European Top Twelve champion, was beaten by an Englishman for the first time in nearly a decade. His conqueror then, Alan Cooke, will be defending the title, but two other England internationals, Jimmy Stokes and John Souter, are also planning to boycott.

"I experimented once last year and lost and I am not prepared to do so again," Douglas said.

Strike off for some

New York (Reuters) - Over 100 National Football League (NFL) players abandoned picket lines and rejoined their clubs on Wednesday, a spokesman for the management council said. John Jones said 110 players returned to their teams before the deadline set by the owners and will be eligible to play on Sunday.

Neither the union nor the owners would comment on the state of negotiations, although Jones said that chief negotiators Jack Donlan for the management council and Gene Upshaw for the NFLPA had been in contact. "Jack and Gene talked twice today but there is no agreement on a back to work proposal," Jones said.

SPORT IN BRIEF



McKenzie: challenge ahead

Duke McKenzie, aged 24, the European flyweight champion, challenges the Thai, Sot Chitalada, for the World Boxing Council title at Wembley on November 17 (Jonathan Rendall writes). It will be Chitalada's second visit to this country having beaten Charlie Magri in four rounds at Alexandria Pavilion in 1985.

Berlin bronze

Near perfect show jumping by the British modern pentathlon team, Richard Phelps, Jason Lawrence and Graham Brookhouse, enabled them to snatch the bronze team medal yesterday when the first European championships concluded in West Berlin.

Bowing out

Paul Gallagher, appointed as secretary to the Scottish region of the Professional Golfers Association 12 months ago, has resigned in order to pursue other interests.

On the road

Wales will compete against England, Scotland and West Germany in a women's 10,000 metres road race to run in conjunction with the Welsh 10 kilometres road race at Cardiff on Sunday.